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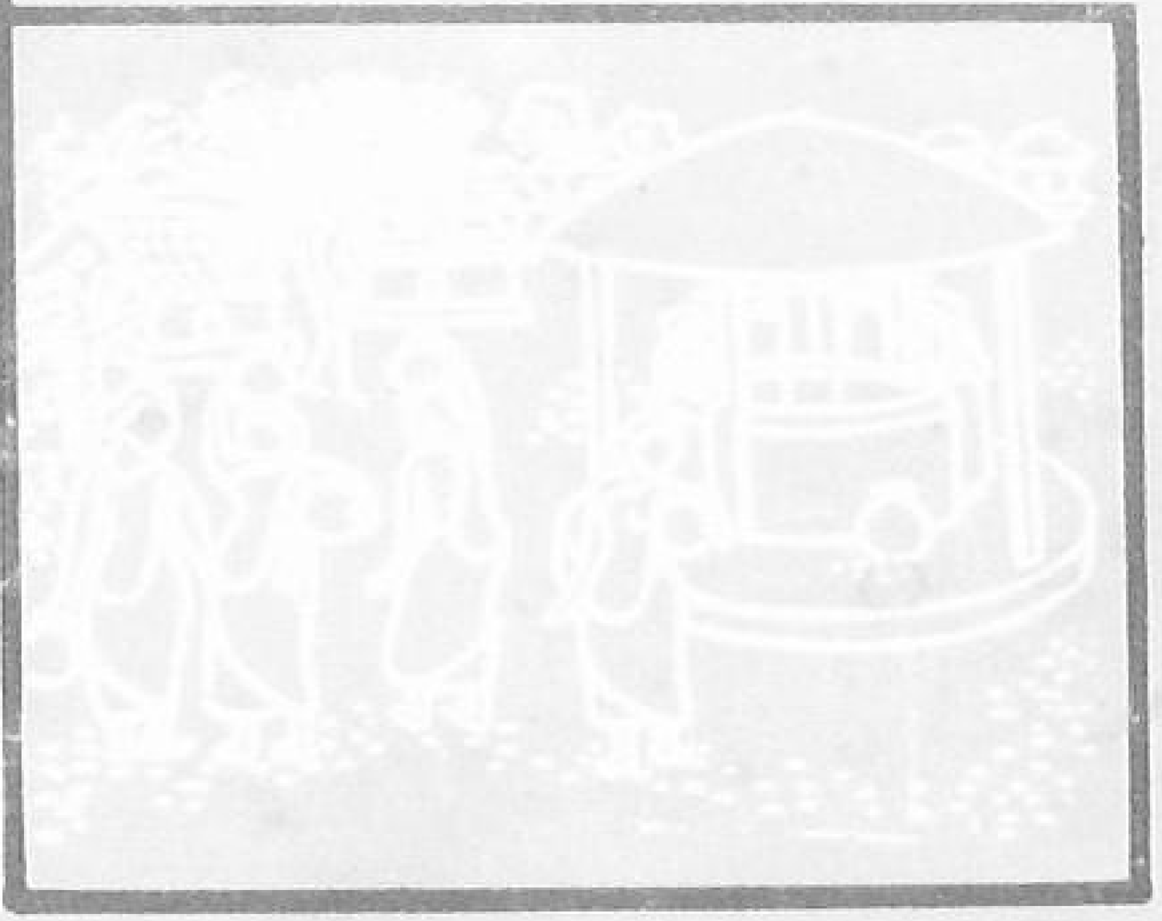
A PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT



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COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN PICTURES

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A PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT

Community Projects in Pictures

Issued on behalf of
THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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P. M. inaugurating the Community Development Programme in India at Alipur on October 2, 1952

A PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT

COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN PICTURES

PREFACE

This album attempts to portray the silent revolution which is at work in the villages of India under the impact of the Community Development Programme. It shows how our life in the villages is undergoing a steady transformation and how the villager is helping to rebuild his surroundings by his own efforts.

The album is divided into several sections each with an introductory note. The first section "Pyramid of Workers" deals with the organisational aspect of the programme and indicates how the multi-purpose workers at the various levels help in co-ordinating and guiding its implementation. In the subsequent sections the main facets of the changing economic, social and cultural pattern of the village life as a result of the introduction of the programme are depicted. The last section of the album draws attention to the world interest India's community programme has evoked.

At present one out of every four villagers in India is receiving attention. Inaugurated on October 2, 1952, the programme had covered by March 31, 1956, more than one and a half lakh villages, with a population of 88·8 million people. Both intensive development as well as Extension Programme are in operation. The intensive programme, namely, the Community Projects cover nearly half the area while the other half is under the Extension Programme. During the Second Five-Year Plan the Extension Programme will cover the entire rural area

of India and not less than 40 per cent of it will come under the intensive Community Development Programme.

The programme embraces a wide field of activities such as basic education, improved methods of farming, better animal husbandry, health and environmental sanitation, arts and crafts, co-operative movement and village planning. Till March 31, 1956—within 3½ years of the operation of the programme—more than a million acres of land were brought under additional irrigation, about half a million acres of waste land were reclaimed, over 107,000 wells had been sunk or renovated, nearly 56,000 schools or adult education centres had been opened, nearly 99,000 community centres and over 76,000 people's institutions had been built up and over 44,029 miles of new roads were constructed.

These figures which give but a few of the more important physical results of the programme, though sufficiently eloquent of the efforts that have been put forth to regenerate the rural life under the Community Development Programme, do not, however, tell the whole story. Nor does this album pretend to undertake this task. It only attempts to show a cross-section of the sweeping people's movement. Behind these cold figures lies the fascinating story of hundreds of thousands of people of rural India who are marching together to fight the three principal enemies of the villager, namely, hunger, disease and ignorance—a movement in which the people, the people's representatives and the Government servants all are working hand in hand.

Contents

Pyramid of Workers .... Pages 11– 20

Towards Better Farming .... Pages 21– 40

Better Communications .... Pages 41– 50

Building a Healthier Nation .... Pages 51– 64

Education in Citizenship .... Pages 65– 74

Recreational Activities .... Pages 75– 90

Rural Arts and Crafts .... Pages 91–104

Village Institutions .... Pages 105–114

People's Participation .... Pages 115–124

World Interest .... Pages 125–133

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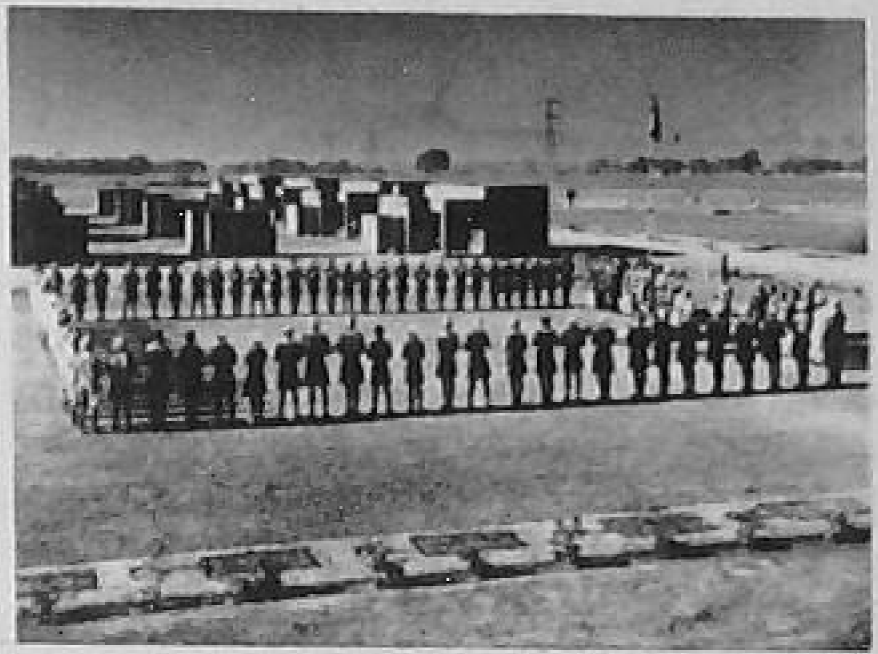


PYRAMID OF WORKERS

PYRAMID OF WORKERS

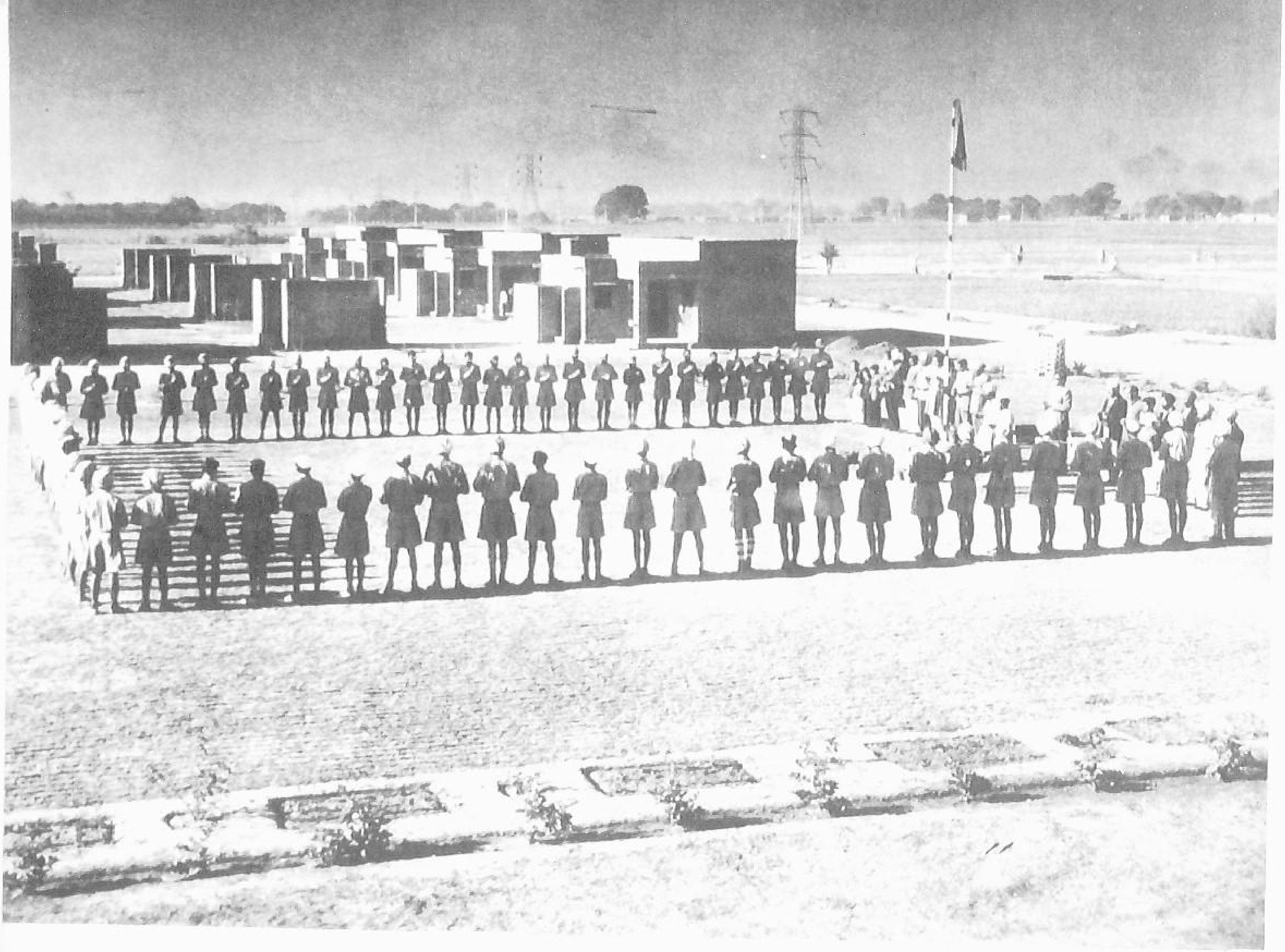
The Community Development Programme requires trained workers in all fields. Although people are the primary elements in this programme, they have to be assisted by technical skill, advice and financial help. Such advice and assistance are required at all levels and the number of persons who would ultimately be required for the implementation of the entire programme will be several hundred thousand.

Such workers before they are put into the field, have to be trained and given the necessary orientation in outlook and approach. Over 60 training centres have so far been established in the various parts of the country to train project personnel who include the village level worker, or the Gram Sevak, the Social Education Organiser, the Block Development Officer and the subject-matter specialists.

The key functionary in the Community Development Programme is the Village Level Worker. He is the First-aid-man in all the fields of rural development, and is the villagers' friend and adviser. Normally, he has to look after between five to ten villages in all aspects of community project work. He has to give advice on agricultural Extension, health and sanitation measures, assist people in organising adult education centres, schools and

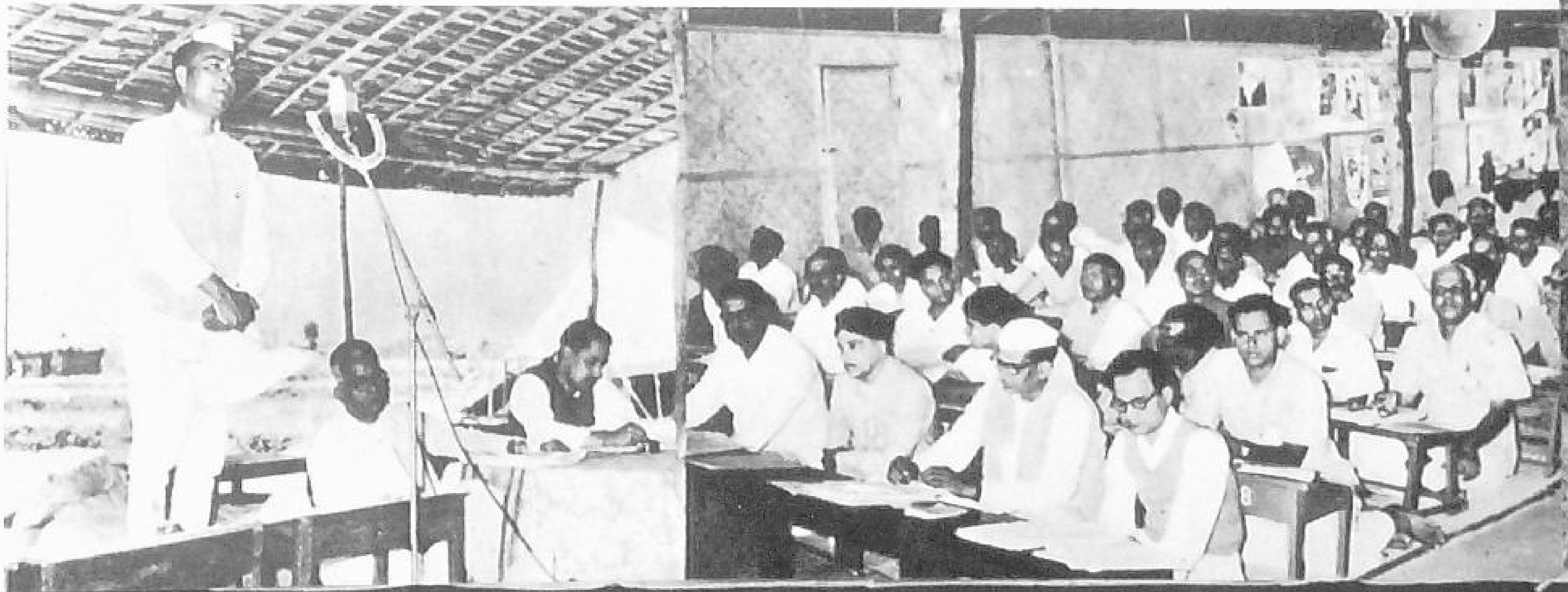
Community centres, organise co-operative societies and form village panchayats. In short, he has to be a multi-purpose worker specially trained for such services. Over 14,446 Gram Sevaks are at present working in the fields looking after community project work all over India.

The Village Level Worker is assisted by Extension Officers in the field of agriculture, health, etc. His work is supervised by the Block Development Officer who is an administrative officer with special training in rural development work and whose charge is about 100 villages with a population of 60 to 70 thousand people. The administration, co-ordination and supervision for community project work are provided by the Collector of the district at the district level and by the Development Commissioner at the State level. The all-India co-ordination and policy direction is done by the Ministry of Community Development in New Delhi. At the state level, the policy guidance is provided by the State Development Committee which is presided over by the State Chief Minister.



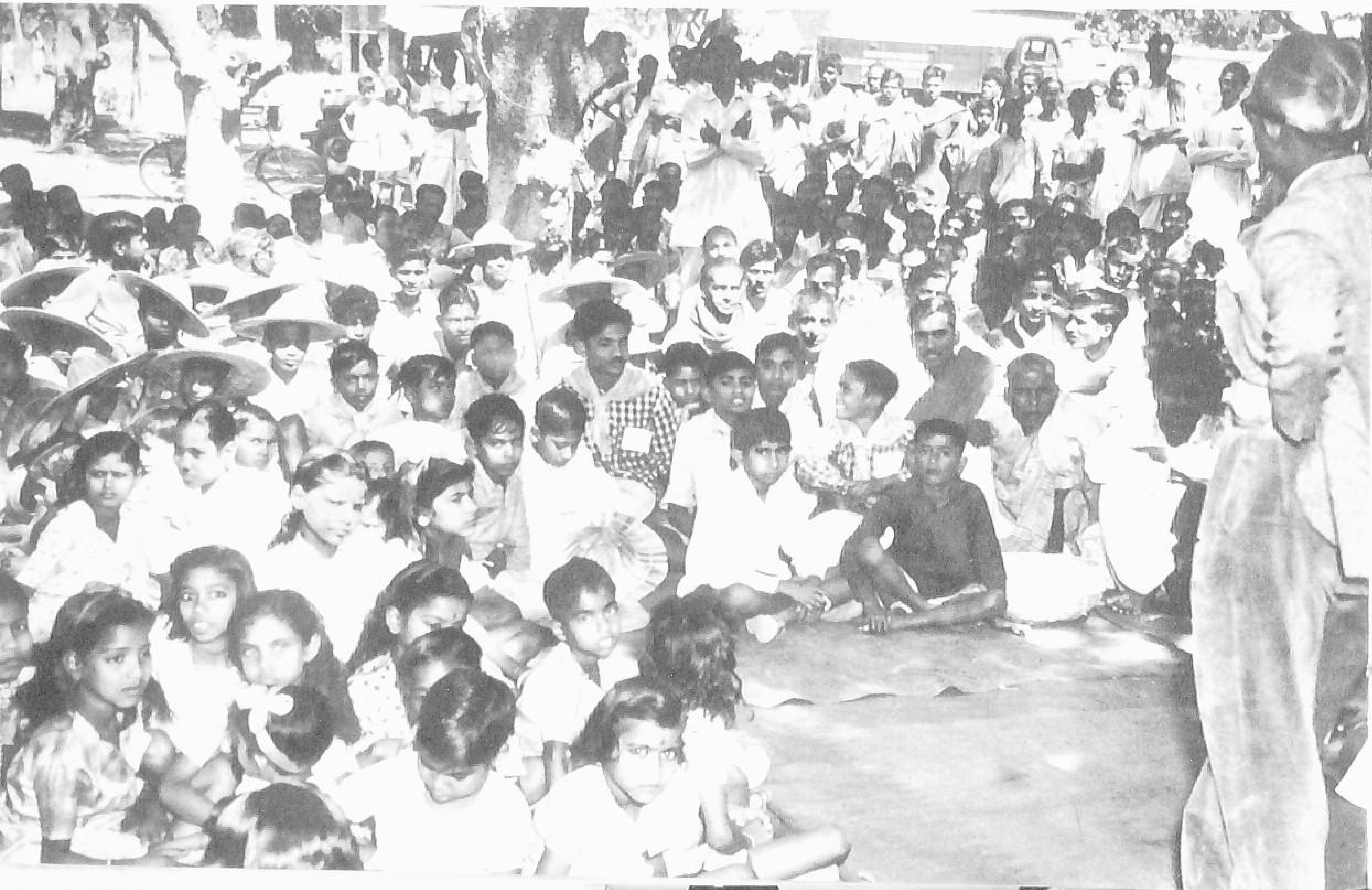
Gram Sevaks at their morning prayer

Development Commissioners of the States meeting at Simla in May 1955 to review the working of the Community Development Programme



Shri S. K. Dey, Minister for Community Development, addressing a seminar of Project officials

Development Commissioner meeting villagers of a Community Project Block



Community Project Officers under training doing practical work of cleaning a village drain

Another group of men and women officers under training

Women social education organisers under training

Village Level Workers receiving training in levelling village roads

Villagers consulting a Gram Sevak

TOWARDS BETTER FARMING

TOWARDS BETTER FARMING

Better farming in India means not only increase in production but also improvement in the standard of living of over eighty per cent of the population living in five and a half lakh villages of India. In about one-fifth of this area where the Community Development Programme is at present in operation, improvement in agriculture is being attempted by increasing irrigation facilities, reclamation of waste land, supply of better seeds and fertilizers and introduction of improved methods of farming. Better animal husbandry services to improve the capacity of the draught animals and to increase the production of milk and milk products are other important facets of this programme. Plant protection measures are also being introduced to save crops from insect-pests and plant disease.

Up to March 1956, the area brought under additional irrigation was 2,002,000 acres of land. This has led to double cropping which has increased production and provided additional employment to a large number of rural people. During the same period 1,100,000 acres of waste land were reclaimed which resulted in a net increase in food production and in the available quota of land for redistribution among landless peasants, thus making

a significant contribution towards solving the acute problem of land hunger. Over 107,000 wells were constructed or renovated, 9,159,000 maunds of fertilizers and 4,826,000 maunds of improved seeds were distributed. Over 545,000 acres of new land was brought under fruit and vegetable cultivation.

Animal husbandry services are important to agriculture. To improve the quality of bullocks and the milk capacity of farm animals, 2,563 breeding and artificial insemination centres have been started; 12,824 pedigree animals have been supplied and millions of cattle have been treated for various cattle diseases and inoculated. Along with animal husbandry services, development of fisheries, poultry, bee keeping, etc. are some of the allied activities that have been taken up. In many areas, old tanks are being dug up for starting fishery schemes and fingerlings are being supplied. Poultry development has been taken up also in many areas.

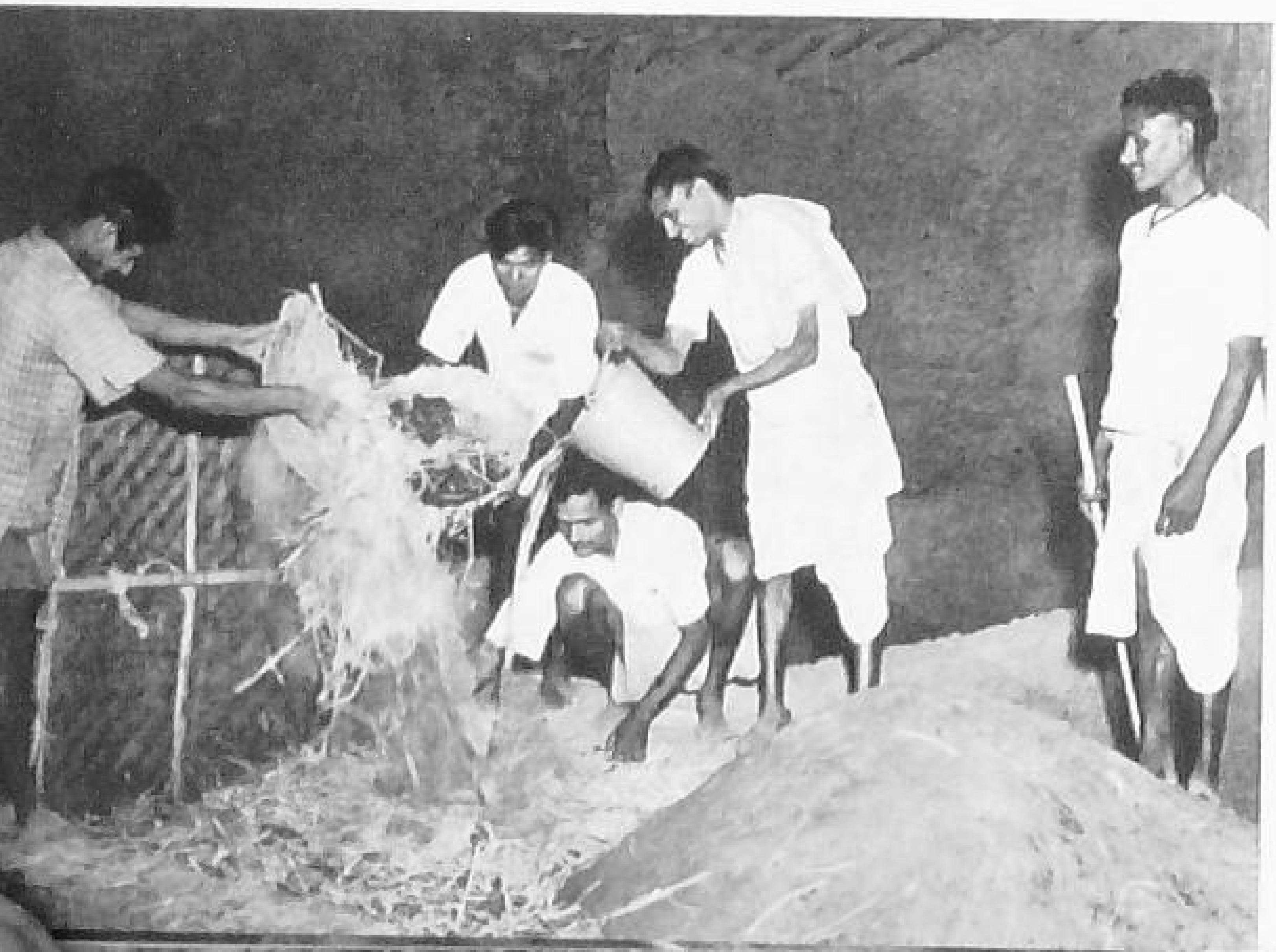
A new hope in withered face

On to work

LEFT: *Preparing the soil*

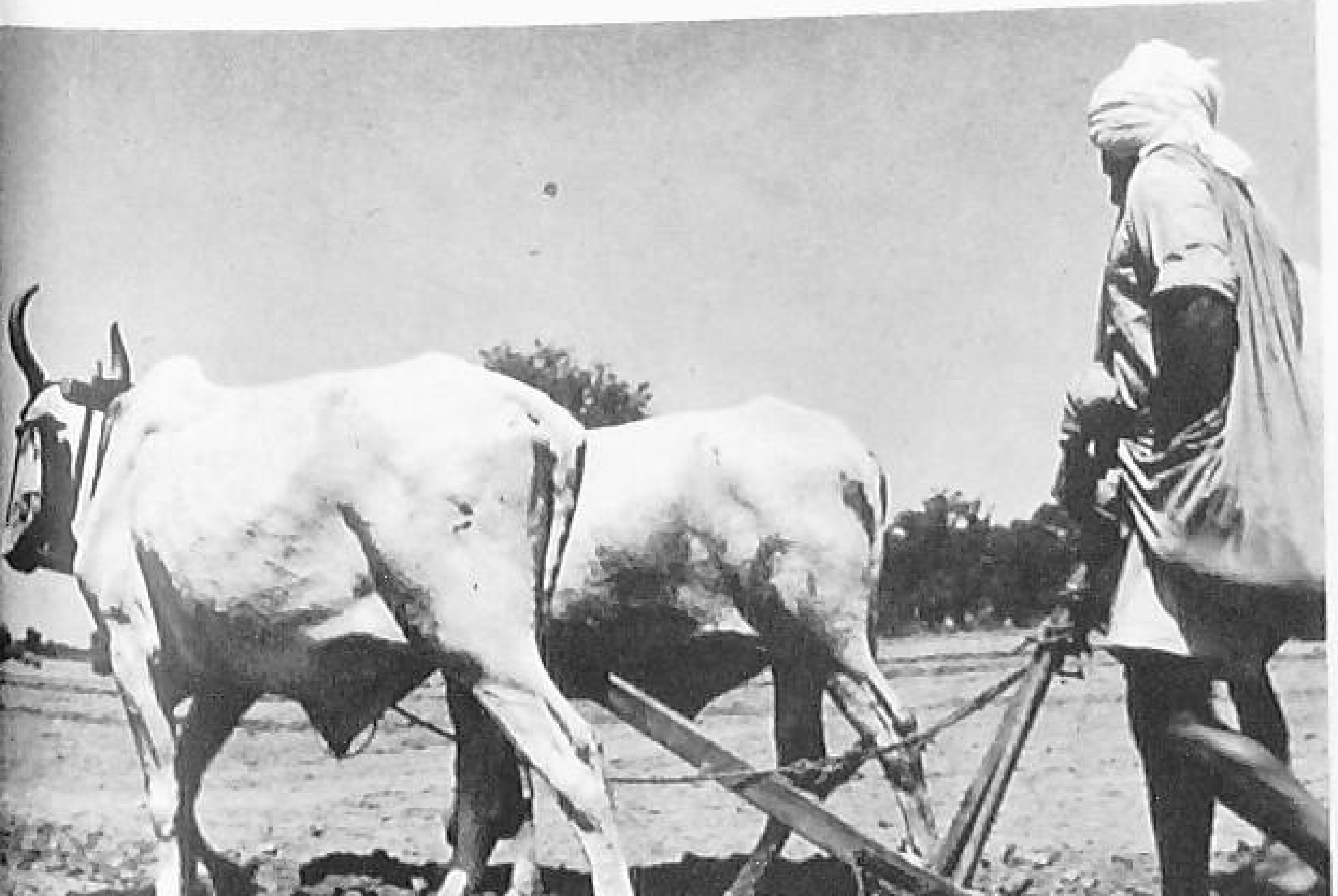
BELOW LEFT: *Preparing compost manure*

BELOW: *Manuring the fields*



Paddy cultivation on the Japanese model

Sowing the seed



Paddy cultivation in a hill-tract

OPPOSITE PAGE:

The old and the new method of irrigation

GD: 409

Nature's bounty

Healthy wheat corns

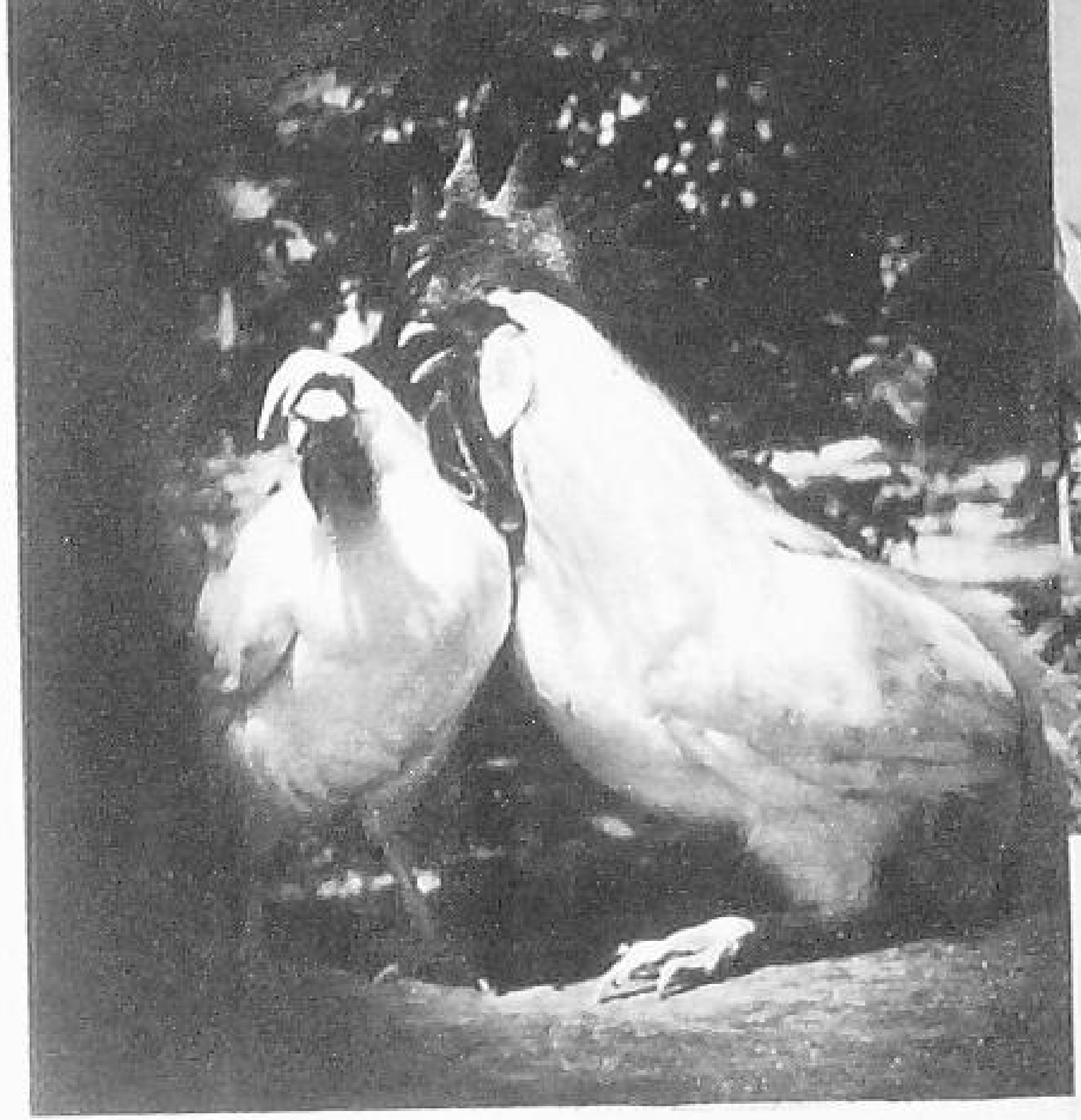
OPPOSITE PAGE.
Saving crop from insect pests

Winnowing

Storing in an insect and rat-proof godown

Giant potatoes — a proud exhibit

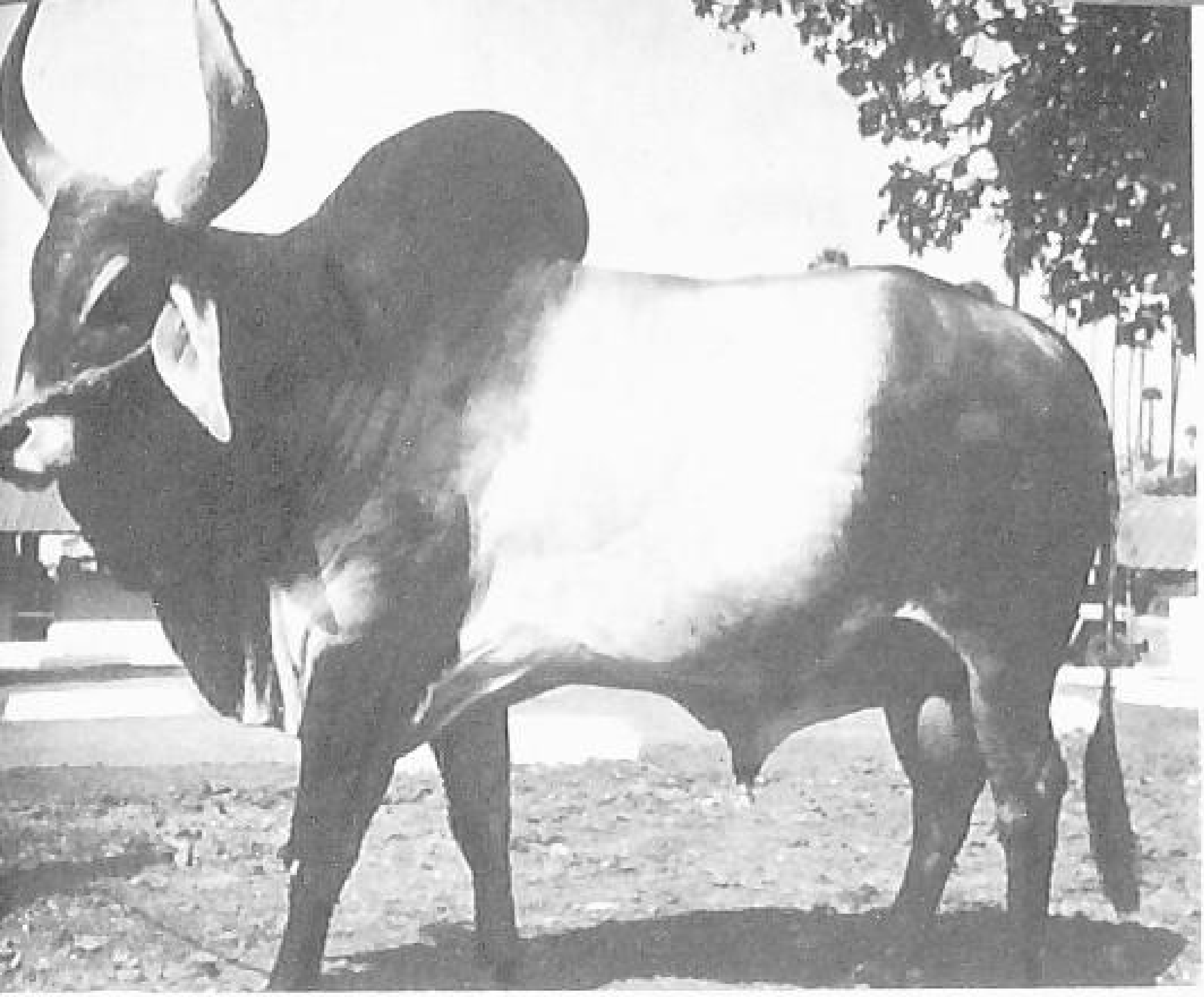
Reclaiming waste land



ABOVE RIGHT: *Poultry breeding*

Maurray's Little Lambs

Fishing — a good catch



Stud bull at a Key Village Centre

Test tube calves

Inoculating cattle against disease

BETTER COMMUNICATIONS

BETTER COMMUNICATIONS

Communications are the very sinews of modern civilisation. The days of the self-sufficient village economy are long over. Rural economy can now flourish only if it functions as complementary to urban economy and the two are made to supplement each other on a planned and co-ordinated basis. For this purpose, adequate communication facilities are essential. Good roads are, however, lacking in most of the Indian villages. During several months in the year, villagers live in partial isolation which impedes the sale and exchange of local produce and hinders the smooth working of essential services like medical, education, postal and telegraphic facilities.

Thus, to link up the villages with proper roads means bringing them into the orbit of competitive economy. It means providing them with an outlet for some of their produce. It is also an artery through which the essentials of life which they have to obtain from the cities can be provided.

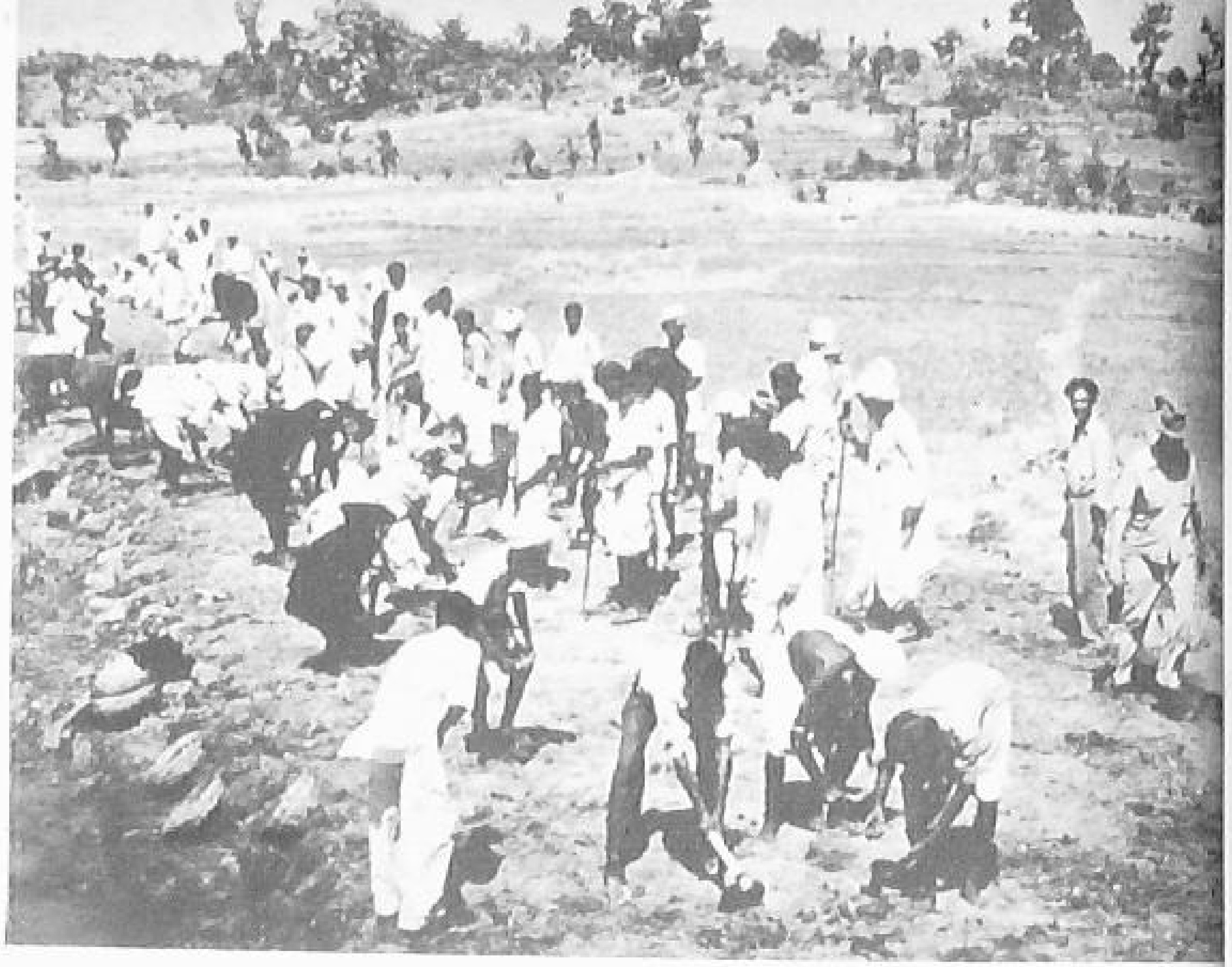
Indian villagers understood the need for roads quickly. In fact, no other part of the Community Programme has aroused so much enthusiasm among the people as the road programme. People have come forth in their

thousands to build approach roads, pave the village lanes and keep them clean and tidy. Land has been freely donated and lakhs of rupees worth of labour voluntarily given. The total mileage of roads built till 1956, was 6,029 miles of *pucca* roads and 38,000 miles of *kutcha* roads—an asset for the future. If these roads are well maintained there will be no more isolation for those areas. The town and the countryside can thus simultaneously develop, each supplementing the needs of the other.

OPPOSITE PAGE:
Onward to work

The rugged pathway

An old village street



Levelling the pathway

Building a new road

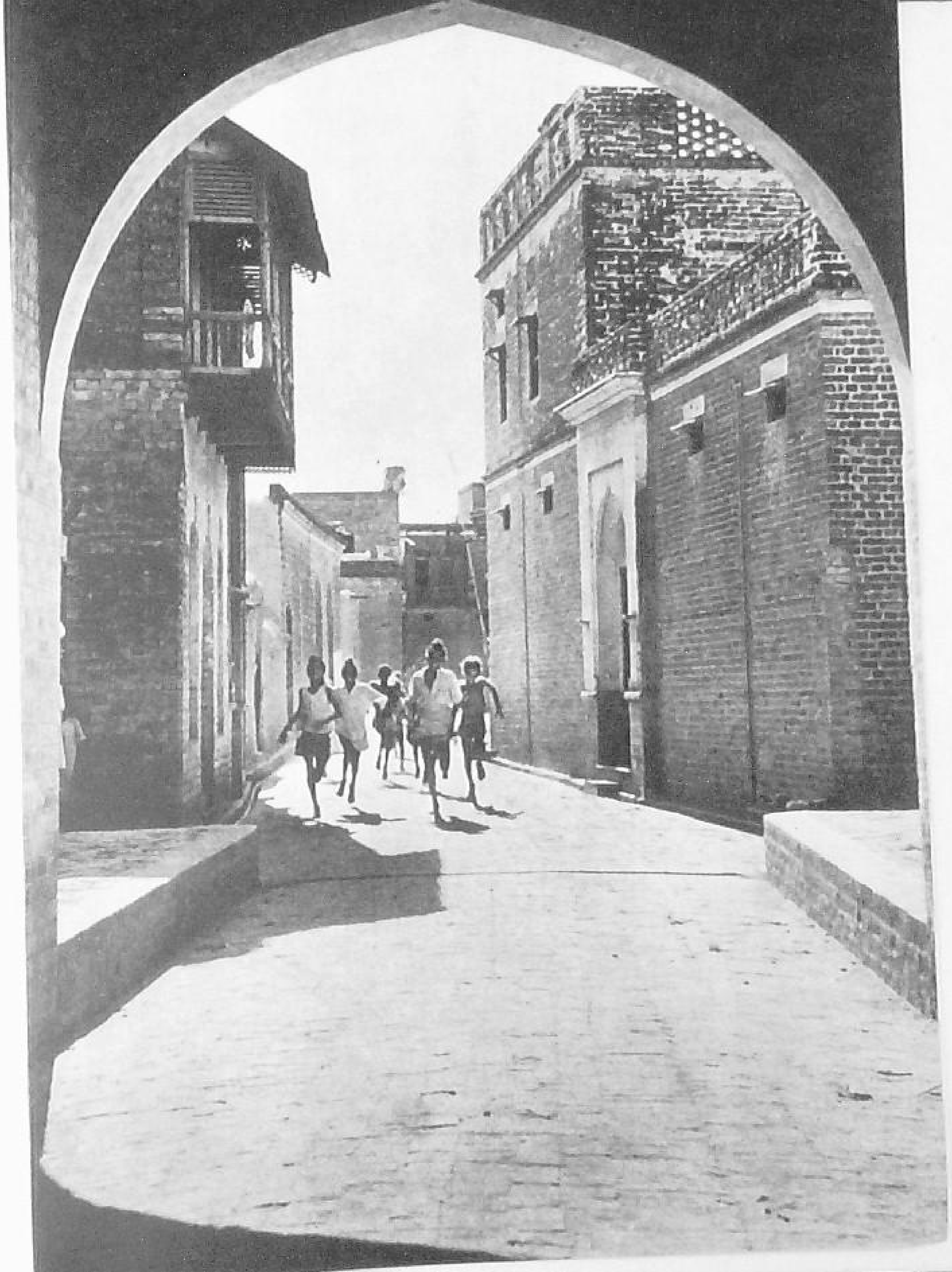
Road-building in hills

Muscles can do it

A cemented road

A newly built hill road

A paved street



BUILDING A HEALTHIER NATION

BUILDING A HEALTHIER NATION

With plenty of sunshine and pure air and the vigorous outdoor activities of the people, the rural areas ought to be the ideal for a healthy community life. Yet, through long years of poverty and neglect, the living conditions in our villages are far from hygienic; people suffer from malnutrition; epidemics when they occur take a heavy toll of life.

In the past, greater stress was laid on the curative measures to combat the diseases. It did not, however, take long to realise that the problem of building the nation's health was intimately connected with the foundations of a preventive health service alongside with medical care. The Community Development Programme, therefore, attaches greater importance to the preventive aspect of disease. For the same reason, it lays greater emphasis on personal cleanliness, environmental sanitation and preventive measures in its Health Programme which includes the opening of primary and secondary health centres, maternity centres, pure water supply, proper drainage, and other sanitary measures. It also lays equal stress on proper housing and encourages the remodelling of old houses and construction of new ones according to approved designs.

The account of the work done so far is quite impressive. Till 1956, 111,000 rural latrines had been constructed, about 3,676-mile long drains had been dug ; a number of health centres had been started and the existing health services extended. Steps for supplying clean drinking water have also been taken in all project areas. Improved housing with doors and windows and ventilators are further being encouraged and special housing grants have been given in all project areas.

Health care of children

OPPOSITE PAGE:
Milk for children

Health education

OPPOSITE PAGE:
A mobile dispensary

Smokeless chulha

OPPOSITE PAGE:

A hospital ward *A well-kept home*

A well arranged kitchen

An old village well

The new well

A hill water pond

Homes in an ideal village

EDUCATION IN CITIZENSHIP

EDUCATION IN CITIZENSHIP

Illiteracy is chronic in rural areas and along with it, there is Ignorance and Superstition. The innate conservatism of the rural people which enabled our villages to survive through centuries during which kingdoms rose and fell, has also bred superstition, and, until recently, a pathetic contentment about their lot and a total resignation to Destiny has been their one distinguishing feature. Continuous exploitation of the last century or more has further sapped the vitality of the rural people till stagnation set in as a universal phenomenon.

In the placid waters of this pool, the Community Development Programme has caused a ripple. People have started thinking for themselves and this process is being accelerated by carefully drawn up plans of education in which not only the three Rs are taught to the boys and girls and also to adults, but education is imparted through self-help, community efforts and a consciousness regarding citizenship rights and obligations.

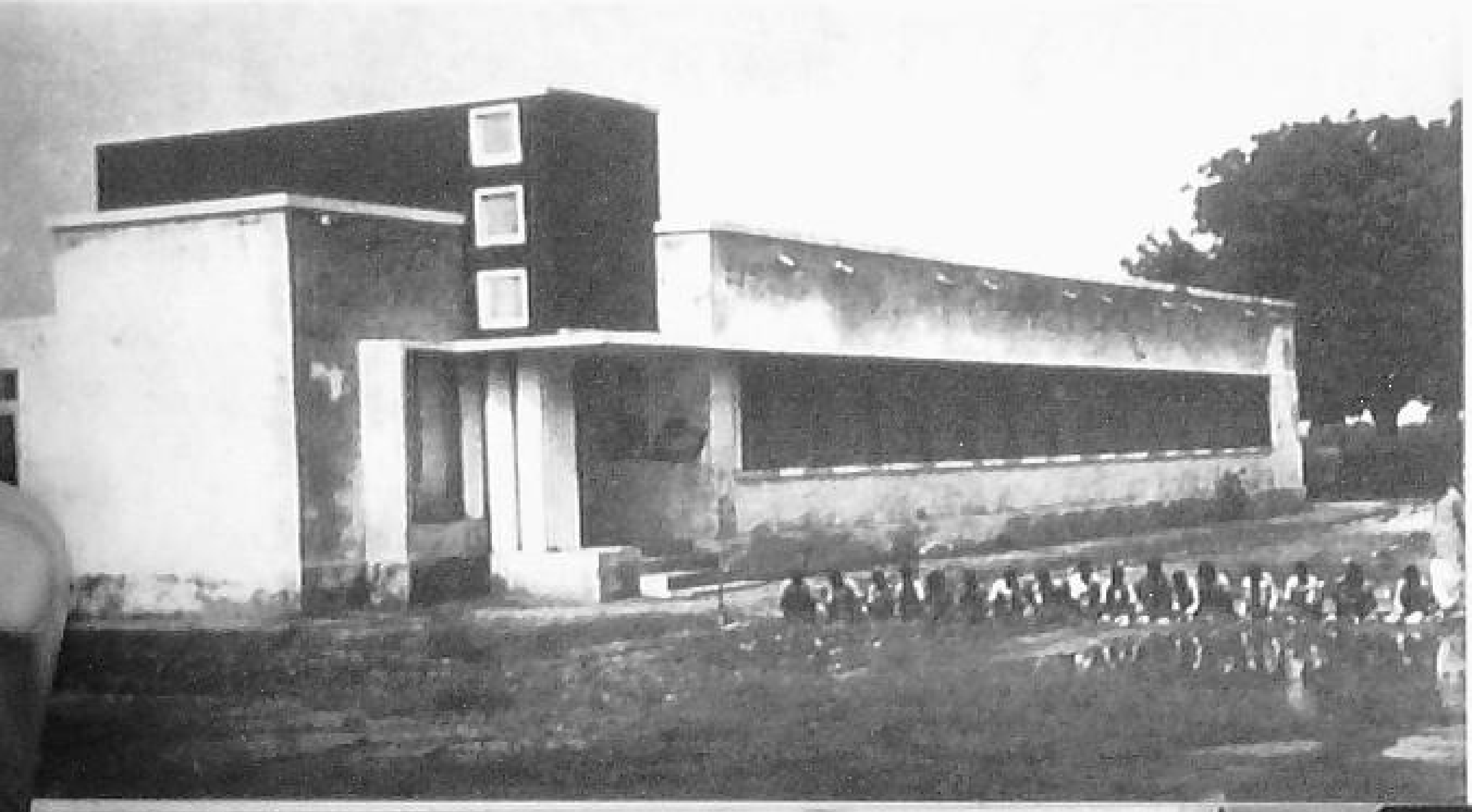
The function of the educationist and, more particularly that of the social educationist, in the Community Development Programme is, therefore, a different one. He has to promote moral and spiritual values which give life a new meaning. He seeks, also, to instil faith in

one's own self and in mutual respect and tolerance.

The Ministry of Community Development has drawn up a comprehensive Social Education Programme and specially trained Social Education Organisers—men and women—are posted in project areas to help people in realising their role in the new India in making.

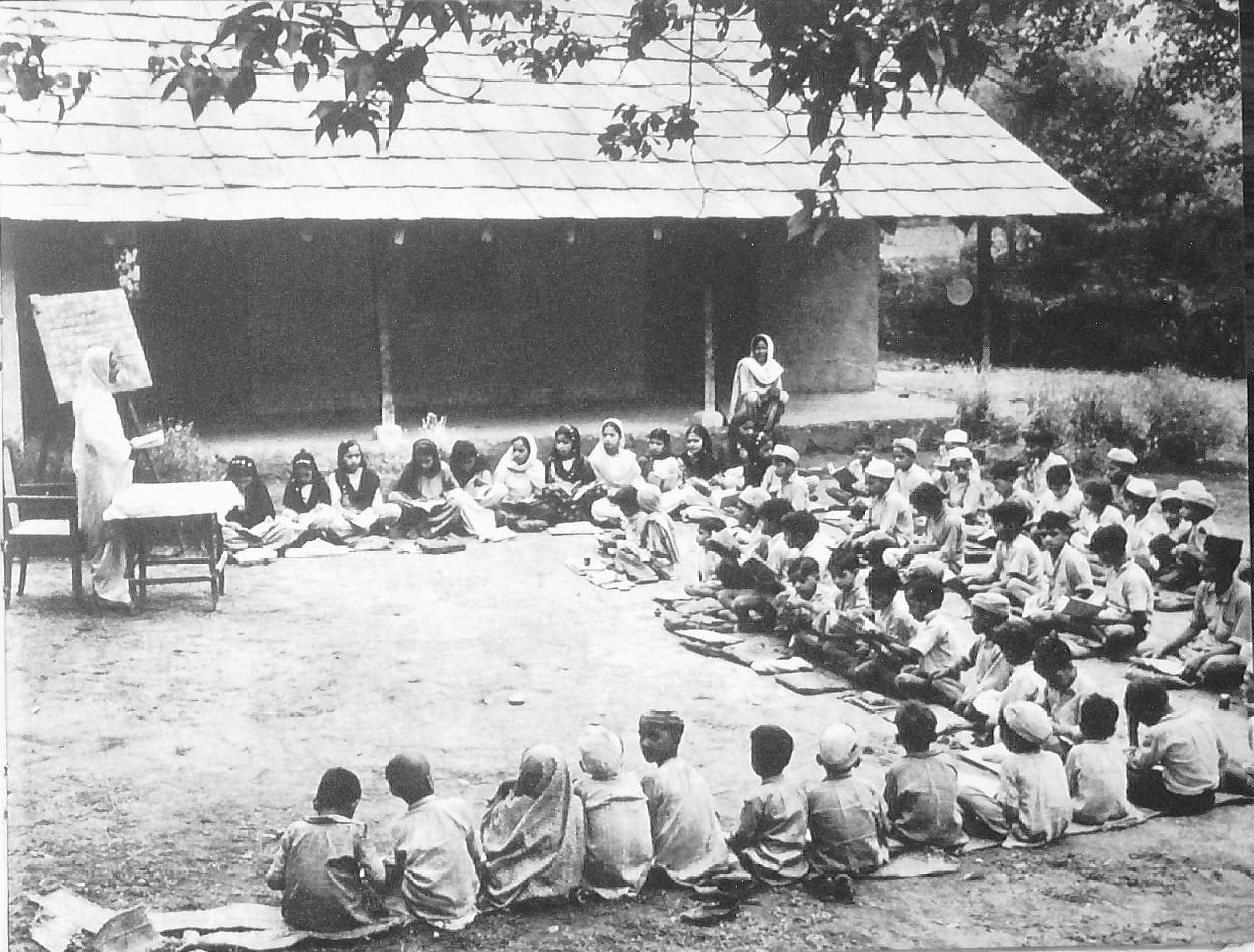
In the field of education of the conventional type, considerable progress has been made. Till March 31, 1956, the number of new schools started in project areas was 15,000 ; existing schools which had been converted into the basic type were 6,968 and adult education centres newly opened in which over 4 lakh adults acquired literacy were 41,000.

A Community Project high school



A basic school

OPPOSITE PAGE:
A village pathshala



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COMMUNITY
ADULT LITERACY
CENTRE

OPPOSITE PAGE:
A night school

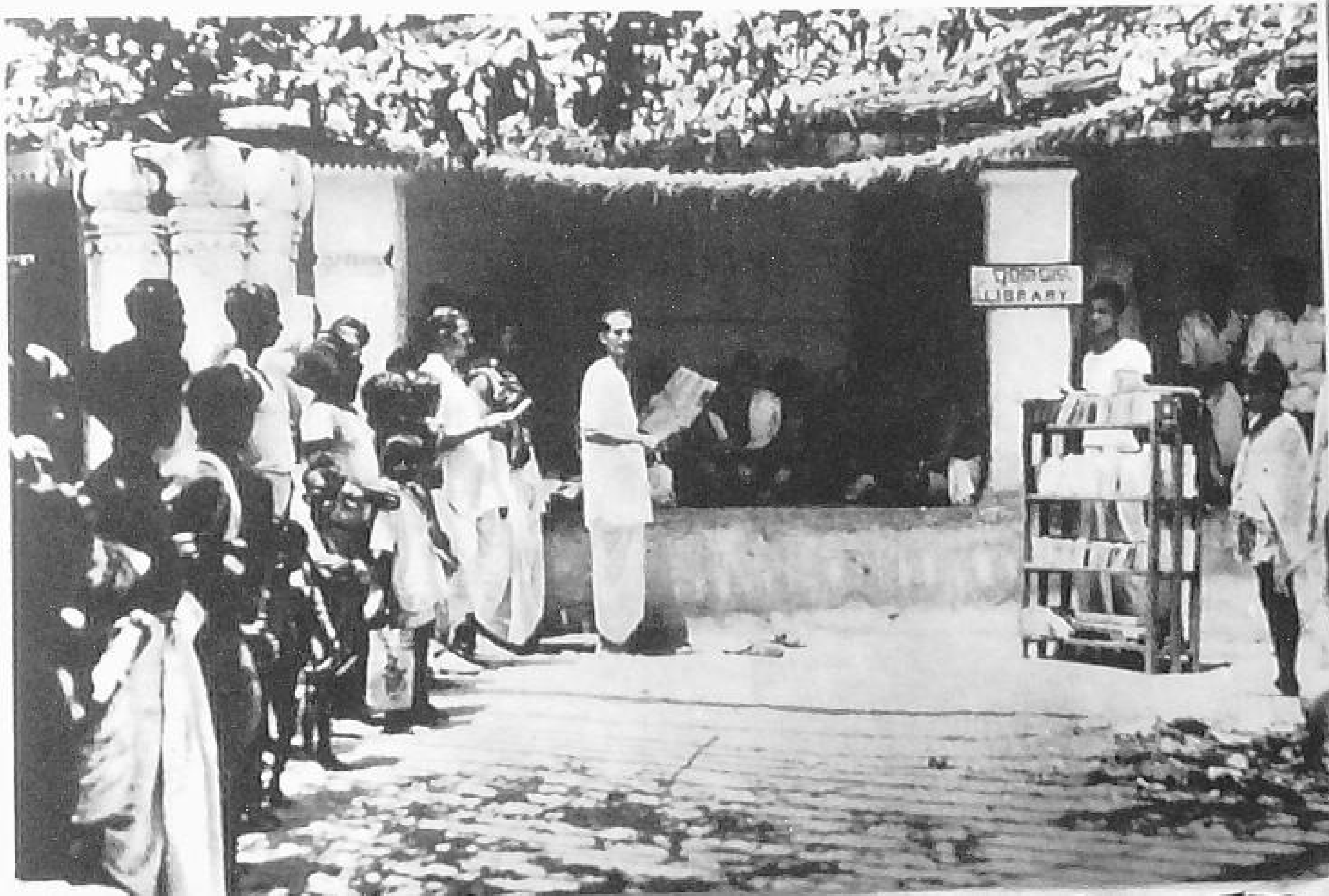
It is never too old to learn

Hand painting class for women

Training in craft

An information centre

A village library



RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Recreational and entertainment facilities are important ingredients of healthy community life.

The simple people of the villages, in spite of their deep rooted poverty, try to revel in festivities and merry making. All over India, the sons of the soil express their glee and happiness in songs, dances and festivities centering round child birth, marriage, sowing, harvesting and various religious ceremonies.

These art forms are simple, direct and touching, the outpourings of a true and honest soul seeking expression in a maddening riot of rhythm and melody which can make them forget their poverty and squalor. For centuries, they have drawn the people together and imbued them with a new vigour, and hope and a tremendous philosophy of endurance.

The epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata and the devotional songs of Kabir, Tukaram, Mirabai, Jaidev, Chaitanya, Tyagaraja and Nandanar still constitute inexhaustible sources of entertainment and instruction to the villagers. So do the village melas and the innumerable religious festivals which are characteristic of the community life in the villages.

Among other forms of entertainments which are popular among the villagers are wrestling

bouts, lathi and sword play and *kabaddi*. The Community Projects Administration, now the Ministry of Community Development, during the last few years, has made a planned effort to make such healthy community activities a part of the daily life of the villagers. To achieve the objective, many recreational centres equipped with modern amenities have been opened in Development Blocks. Folk songs, community dancing, *kirtans* and *bhajans* and the various forms of sports are encouraged in these centres.

The village bard

The village belle

Folk dancing—a popular pastime in the village

Community singing

Harvest dance by children

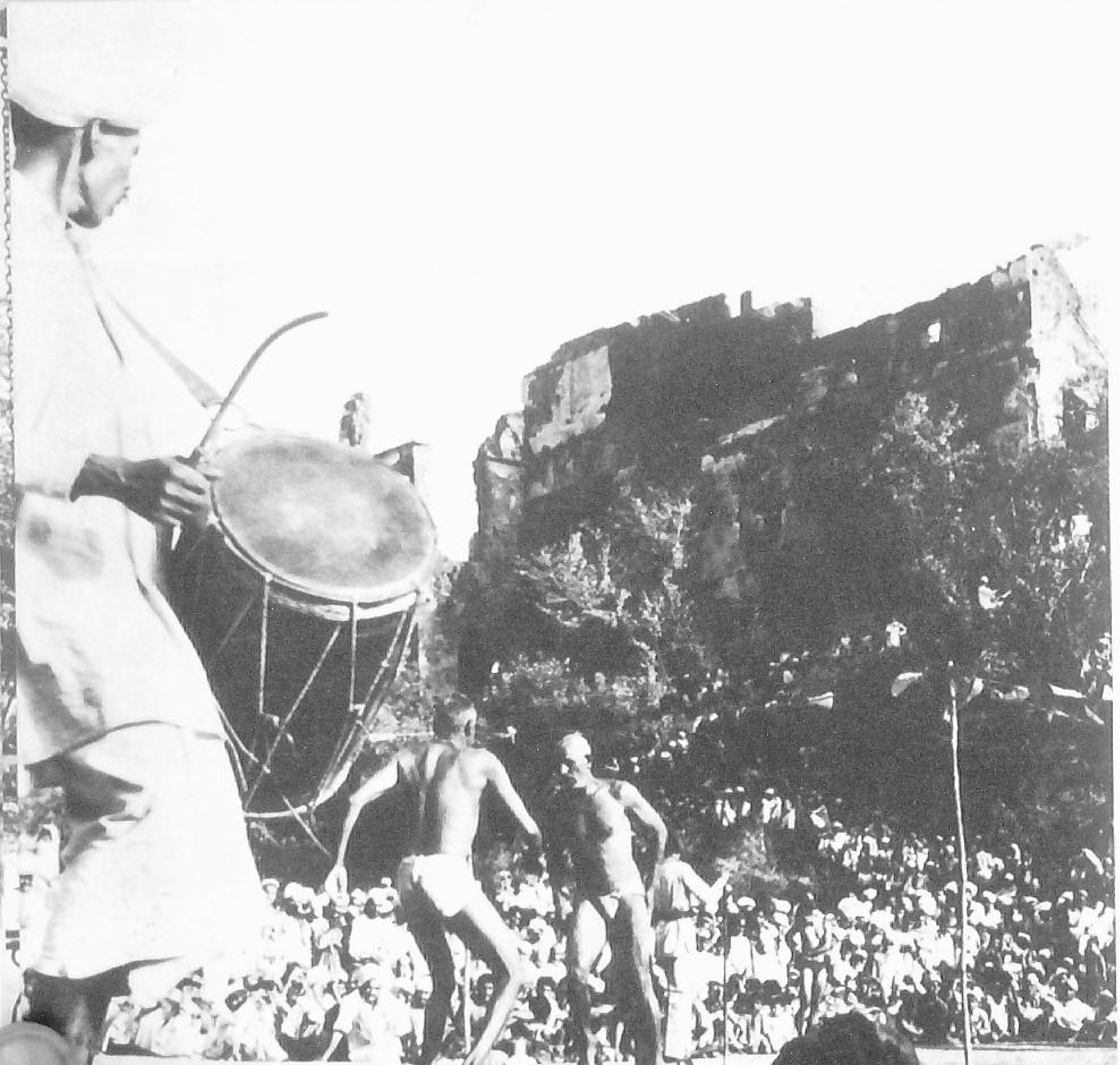
A village mela

Children's park

Merry-go-round

Children at play

The swings and the seesaw



Wrestling bout

A film show

RURAL ARTS & CRAFTS

RURAL ARTS & CRAFTS

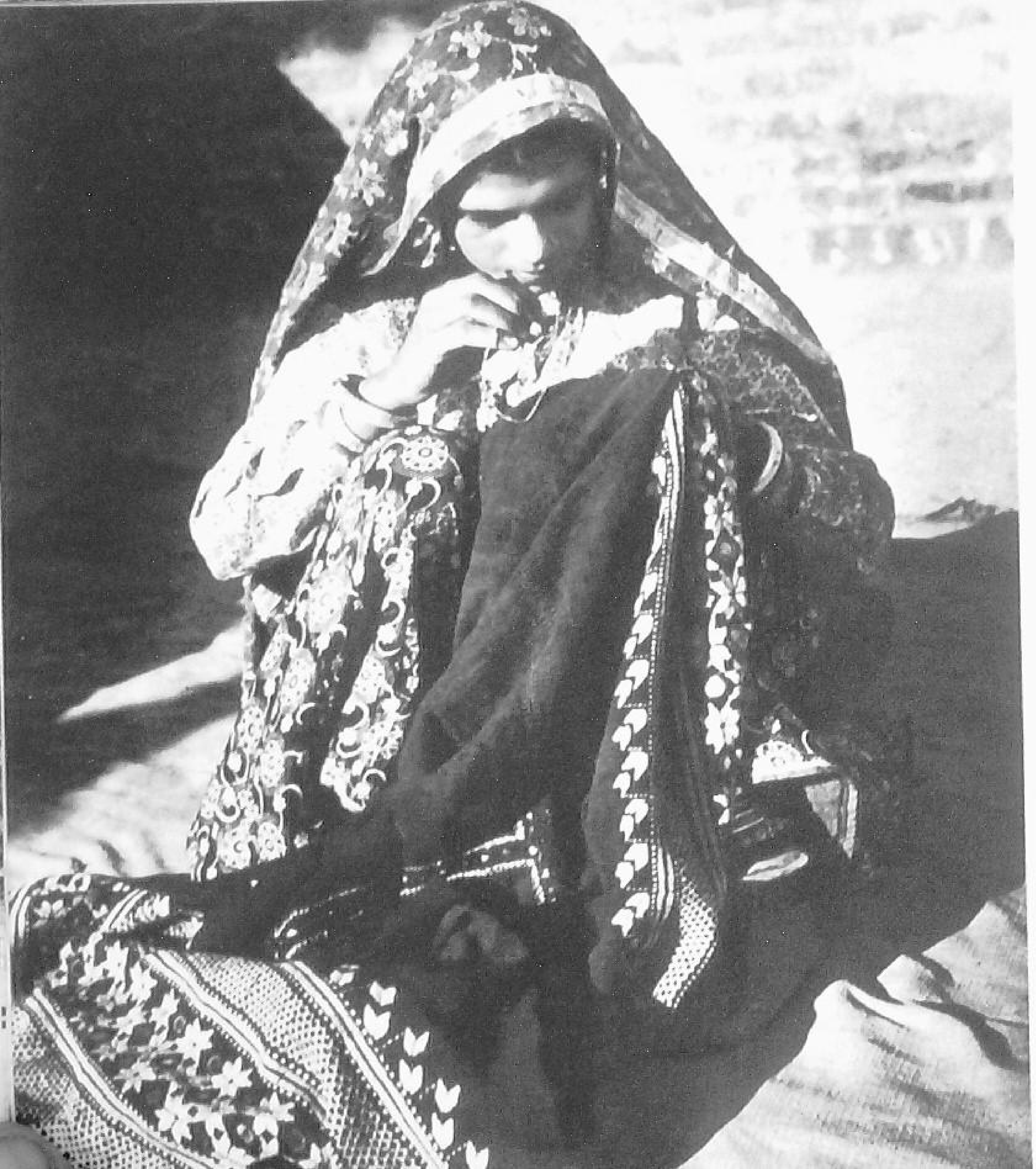
India's rural arts and crafts, which for centuries had acquired world-wide fame, have of late been decaying, mainly through neglect. Their revival is essential for the revitalisation of rural life. The Community Development Programme has assigned an important place to this objective. It has envisaged a scheme to impart training in rural crafts to local artisans and women-folk. The main objective is to improve their inherent skill. While under training, they also get stipends in order to maintain themselves and their families.

Besides crafts, attention has been devoted to the development of cottage industries. These provide the main source for the employment of the unemployed and the under-employed in the villages. In drawing up a programme for their development, emphasis has been laid on the fact that the industrial programme is a part of the integrated development of the area. The blacksmiths, for example, make improved types of agricultural implements like iron ploughs, thrashers, and inter-cultivators, needed for better cultivation, or buckets used for Persian wheels. The potters make the bricks, floor tiles and sanitary and irrigation pipes for which demand exists in the Community Project areas due to various activities under

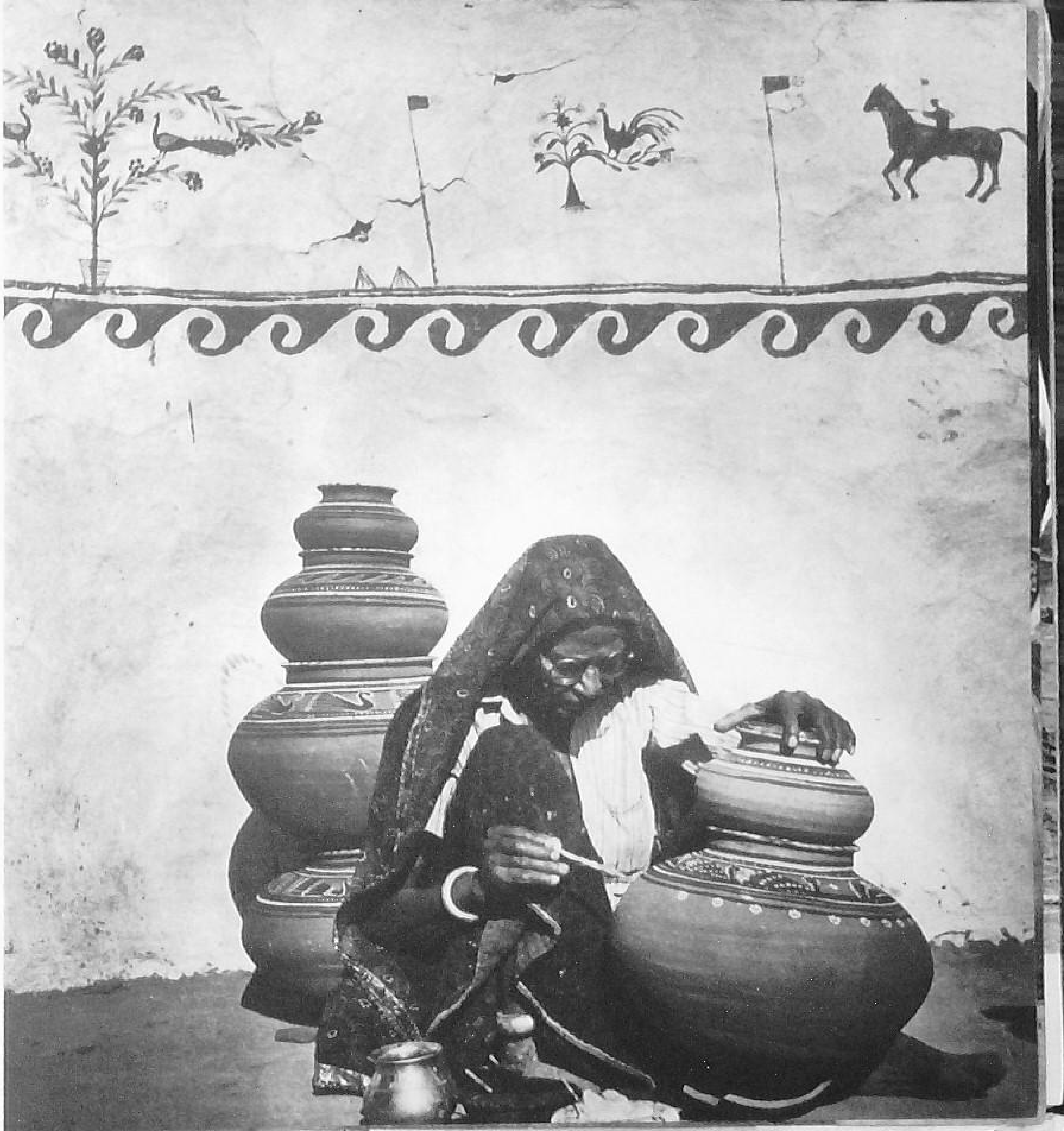
Housing, Public Health, repairs of wells, etc.

The farmers can find additional employment if they process some of their agricultural produce instead of selling it raw, *e.g.*, oil-seeds can be crushed in the village itself by making use of village *ghani* during dull season when idle bullocks can be used in the process. This helps in retaining the cake for utilisation both as a fertiliser and cattle food. Other examples of such industries are hand-pounding of rice, manufacture of gur, etc.

The Ministry of Community Development is devoting attention to these problems as well. It has initiated a programme of 25 pilot projects which will deal with the problem of rural industries in all its aspects and set the pattern of development for cottage industries all over the Project areas.



Phulkari



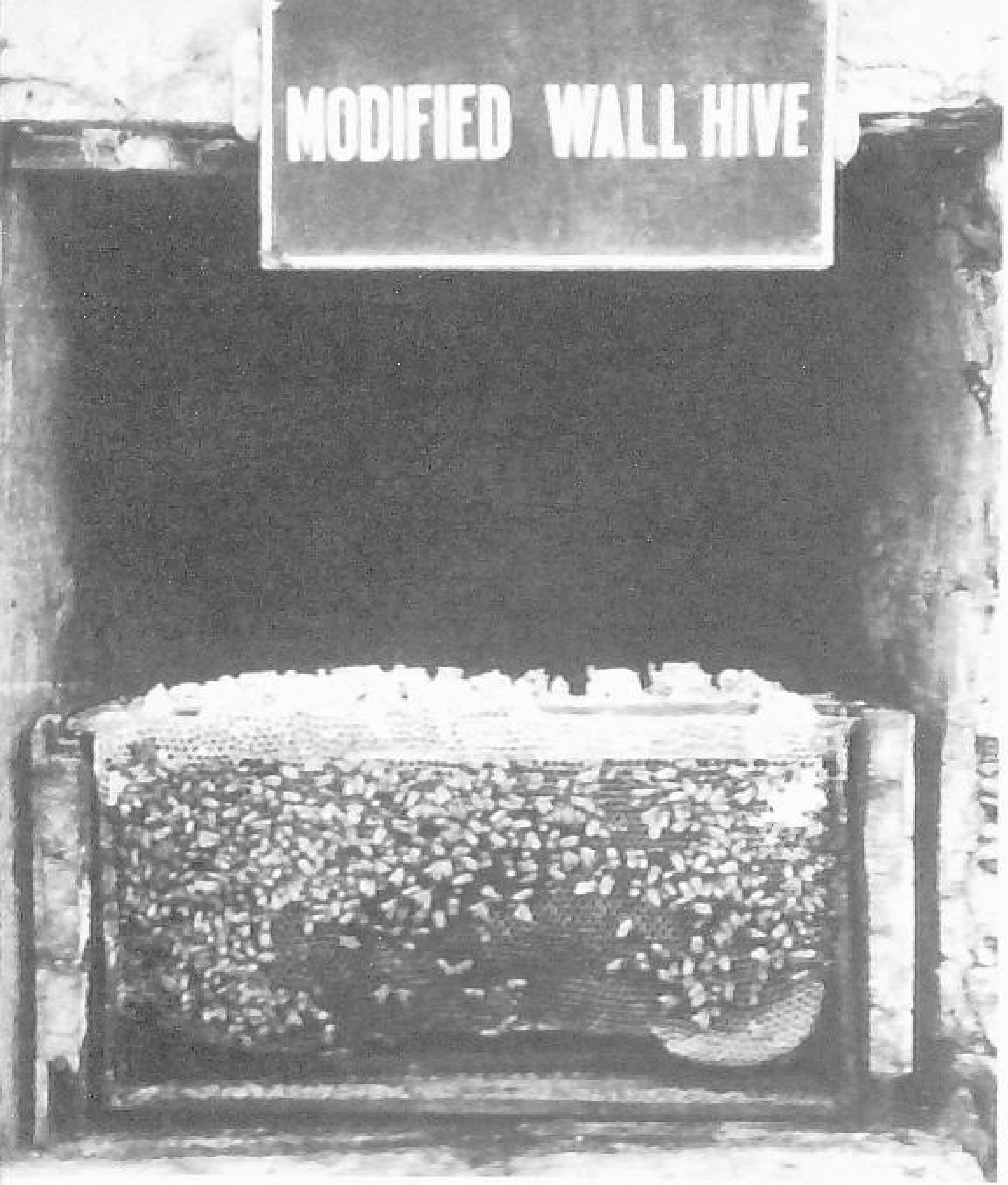
Pot painting

The handloom

OPPOSITE PAGE:
Calico printing

OPPOSITE PAGE:
Tailoring centre

Embroidery class



Bee-keeping

Potter at the wheel

Trainees at work in a carpentry class

Basket-making

Papier-mâché work in Kashmir

Mat-making

Toy-making

VILLAGE INSTITUTIONS

VILLAGE INSTITUTIONS

The Community Development Programme is a people's programme. Its success depends on the organised and sustained efforts of the people. Therefore, creation of suitable popular institutions which can undertake work of this nature is a prime necessity. In fact, unless suitable institutions are developed, the initial enthusiasm of the people which has been awakened on the trail of a new movement will soon fade out.

In India, from time immemorial village councils under the name of Panchayats have functioned quite effectively. These Panchayats had extensive powers and they had earned the confidence and respect of the village people. In more recent times, however, many of the Panchayats went out of existence and a large number of them have become moribund. Disintegration of the rural economy, and exploitation by the erstwhile rulers were the more important causes of their decay. The Community Development Programme aims at rejuvenating village Panchayats wherever existent and at creating new ones where they do not exist. New village bodies like Vikas Mandals in Madhya Pradesh, Gram Mangal Samities in Orissa, Gram Seva Sanghams in Madras are also being created to take up works

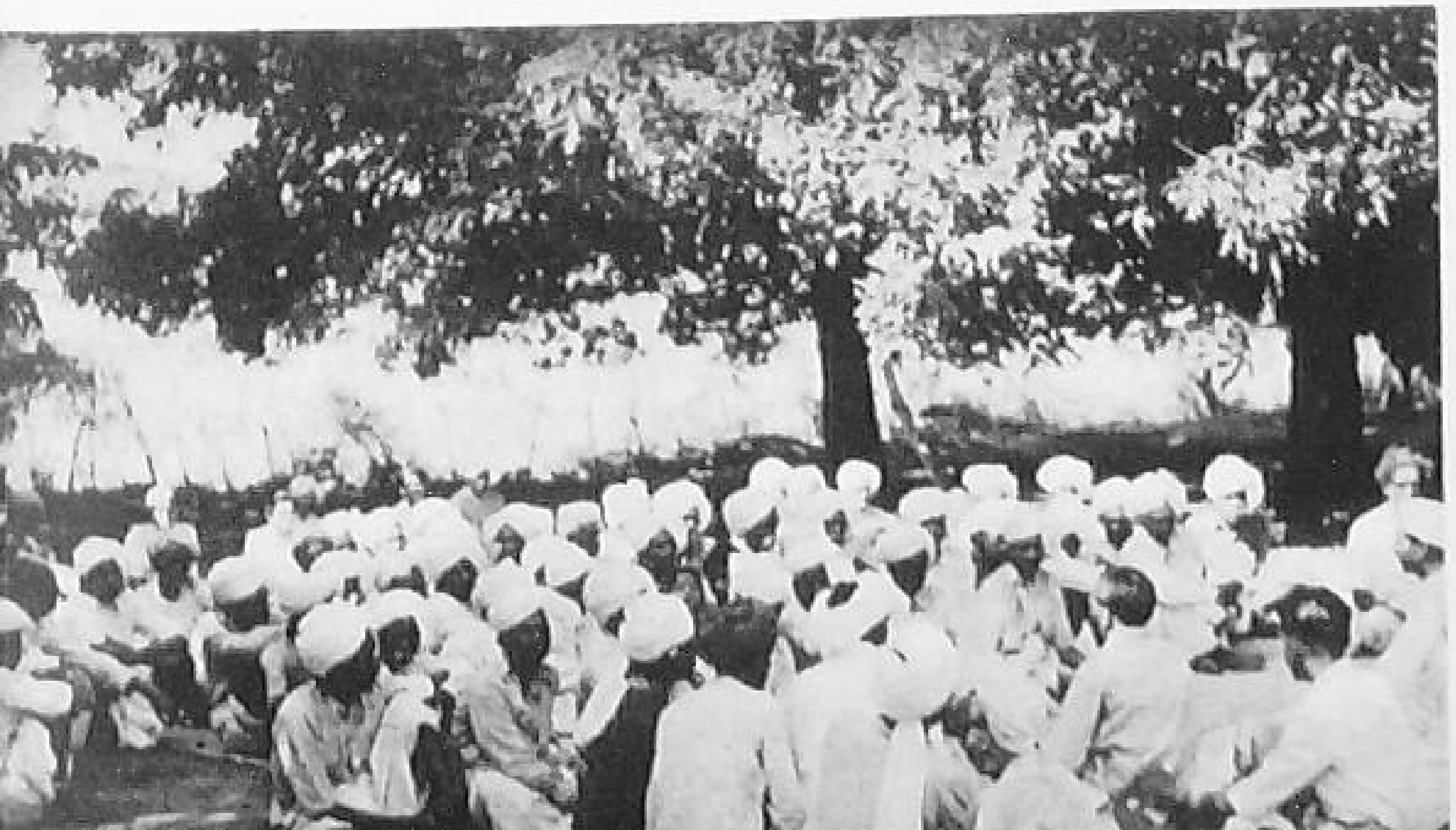
of community benefit and to maintain them for the future.

Along with the organisation of village councils new institutions are being developed on co-operative lines. Multi-purpose co-operative societies to help the villagers in getting credit for increasing production and for marketing are also being developed. Till March 31, 1956, the number of co-operative societies started in project areas was 33,000 while the units of peoples' organisations developed numbered 76,000. The co-operative movement has to percolate the entire project area. In fact, this is the one important test for the success of the Programme in project areas.

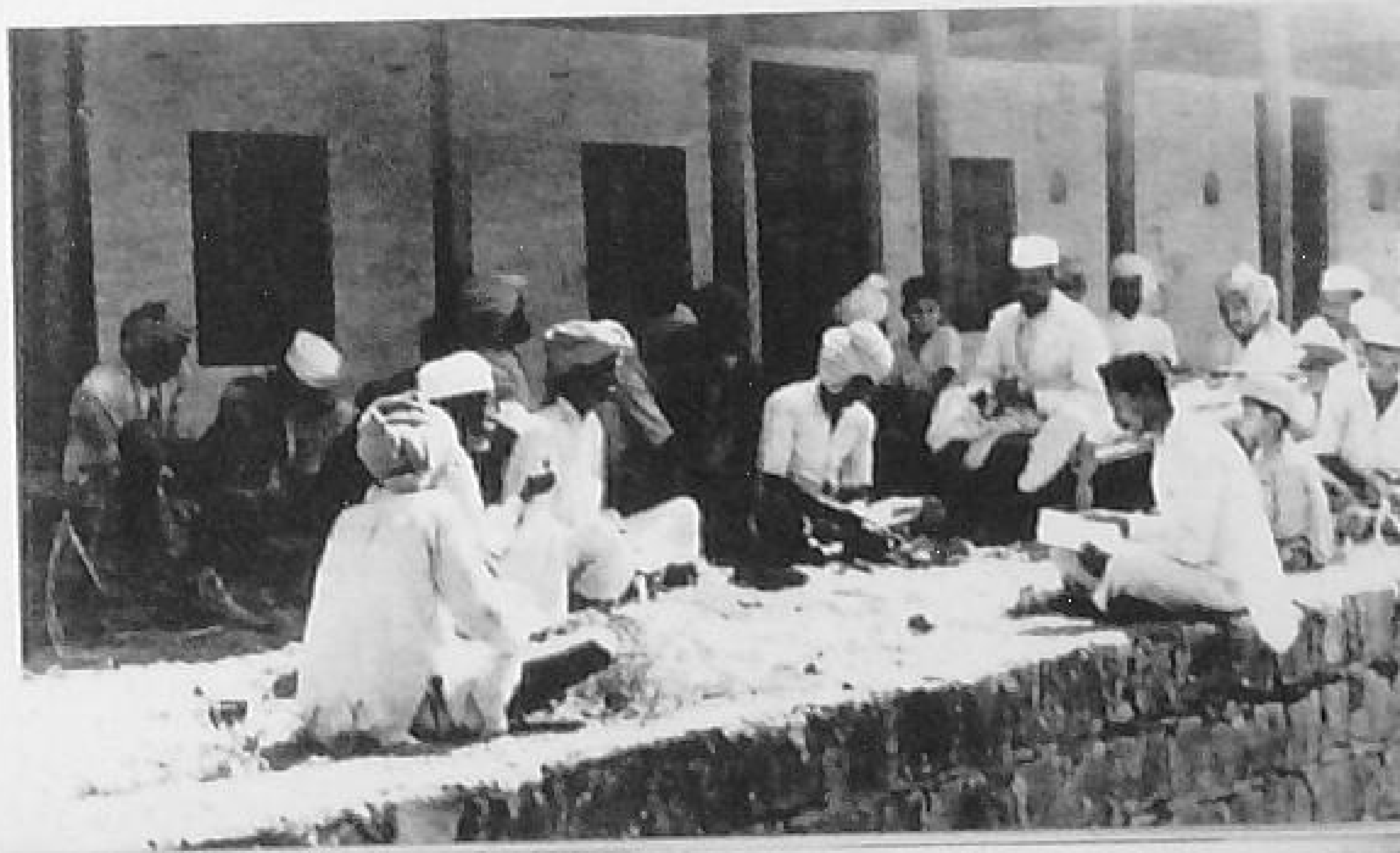
Community Centre

The Panchayat Ghar

Village elders

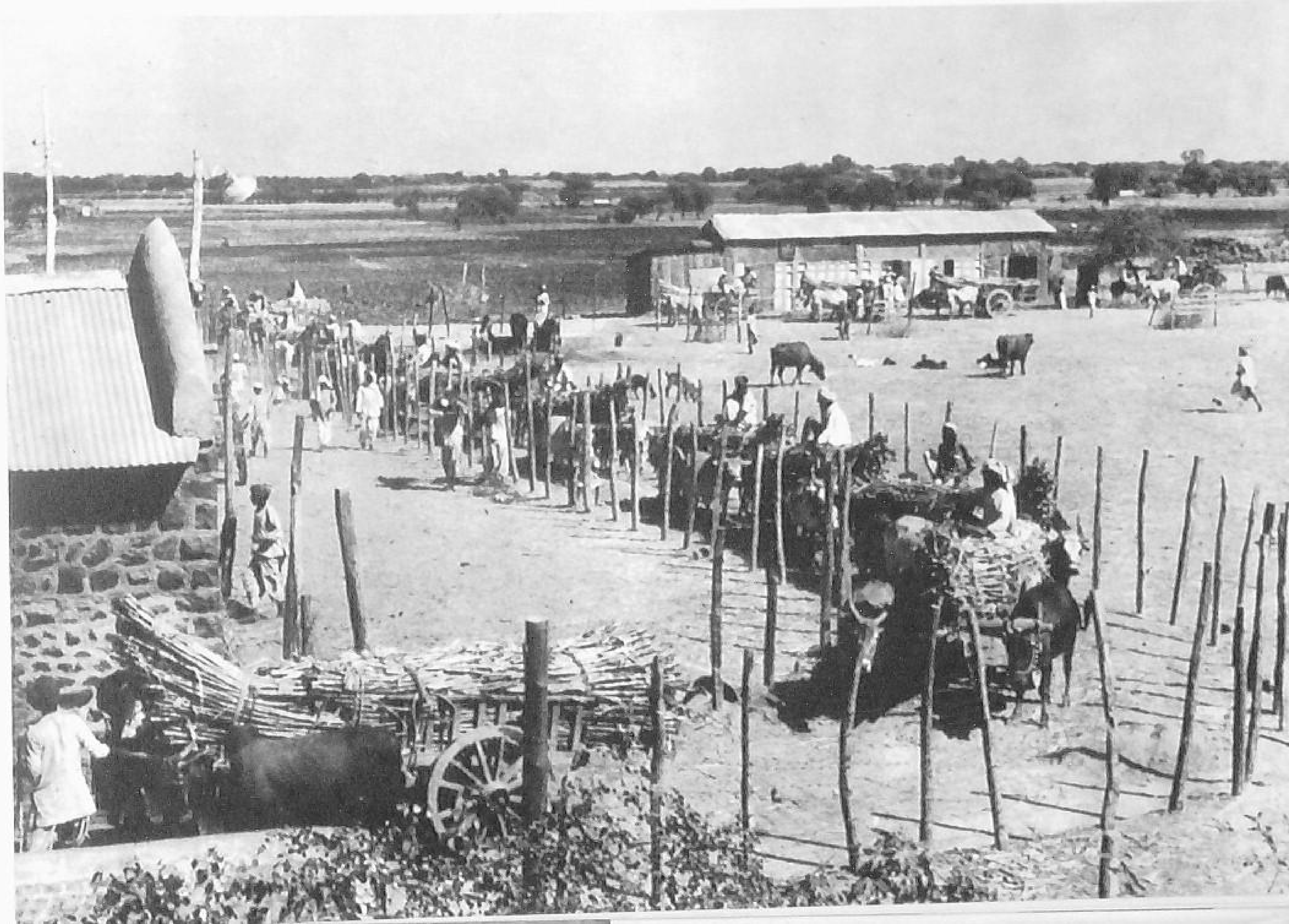


A Panchayat in action



A Women's Co-operative Weaving Centre in Assam

A Co-operative sugar factory



Young Farmers' Club

A Mangal Mandli

Staging a play

PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION

The long slumbering villages of India are now astir. The Community Development Programme has provided the initial leaven. But it is primarily the people's own effort that is helping to revitalise the countryside. Voluntary effort is generating a new spirit of self-help. Villagers in thousands are coming forth to build new roads and schools, health centres, Panchayat buildings, co-operative stores and all other activities of community benefit. They are reconditioning their homes and surroundings. Students and cadets are going out to the villages to participate in the great movement of "Shramadan" and to re-establish the dignity of labour. They are organising literacy campaigns, health and sanitation drives and other welfare activities. Those villagers who cannot contribute voluntary labour are coming forth with donations of cash and land.

The movement for voluntary labour or Shramadan has gained considerable momentum under the Programme. Apart from the voluntary work of the people in their own villages, which is a normal activity in each village so far taken up under the Community Development Programme, special drives for Shramadan on a large scale have been organised by many

of the project authorities. Over 10,000 people working daily on a road or an embankment for several weeks at a time has become a common sight in such Shramadan movement. Men, women and children have come on foot; on cycles and bullock carts, carrying their food with them, to participate in the new sacrament of building a new India. They have braved the inclemencies of weather and sacrificed their leisure for building the land of their dreams and have thus become partners in this great Enterprise.

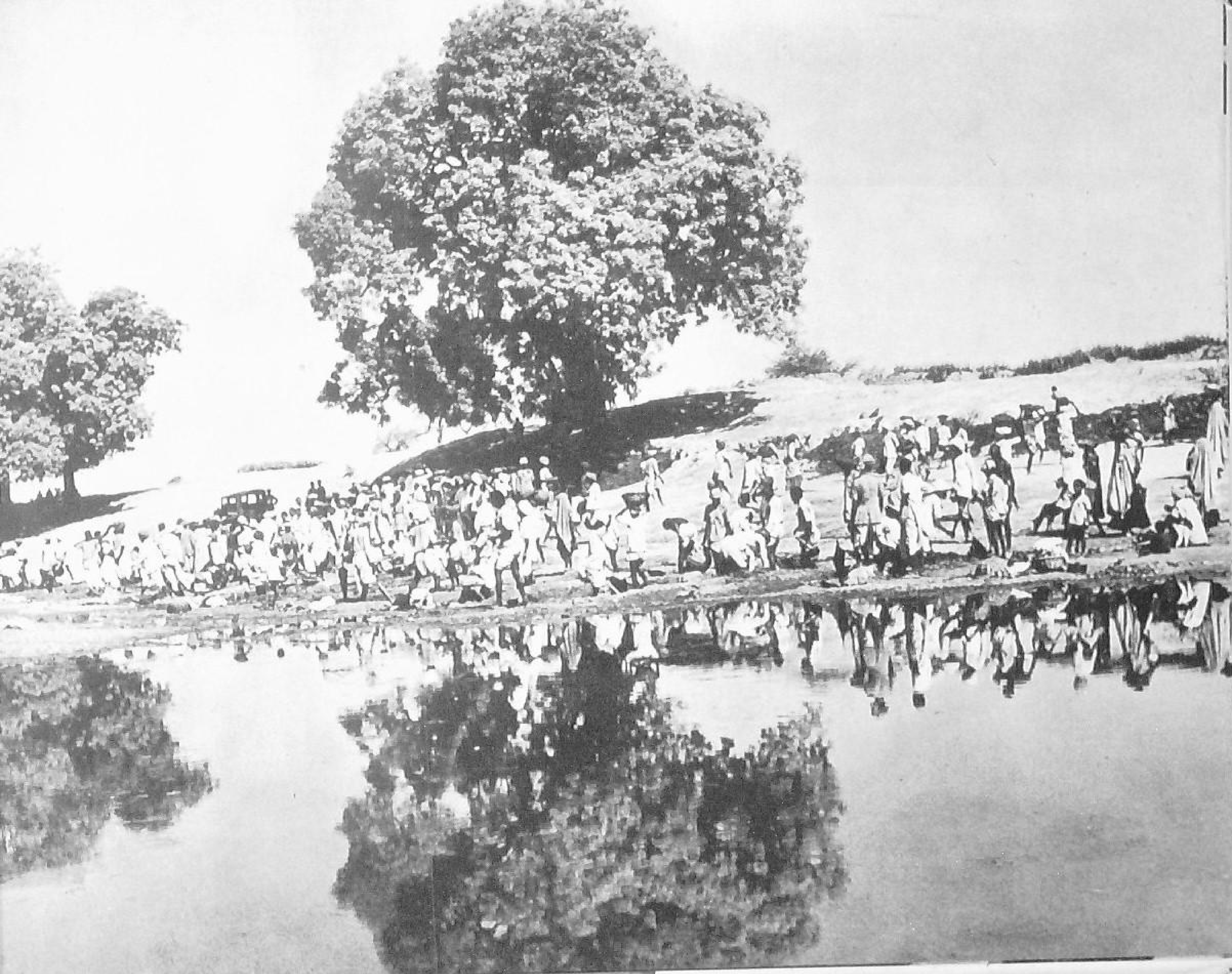
Marching onwards

OPPOSITE PAGE:
The N.C.C. Cad

Students go ahead

OPPOSITE PAGE:
People's participatio

The Armed Forces

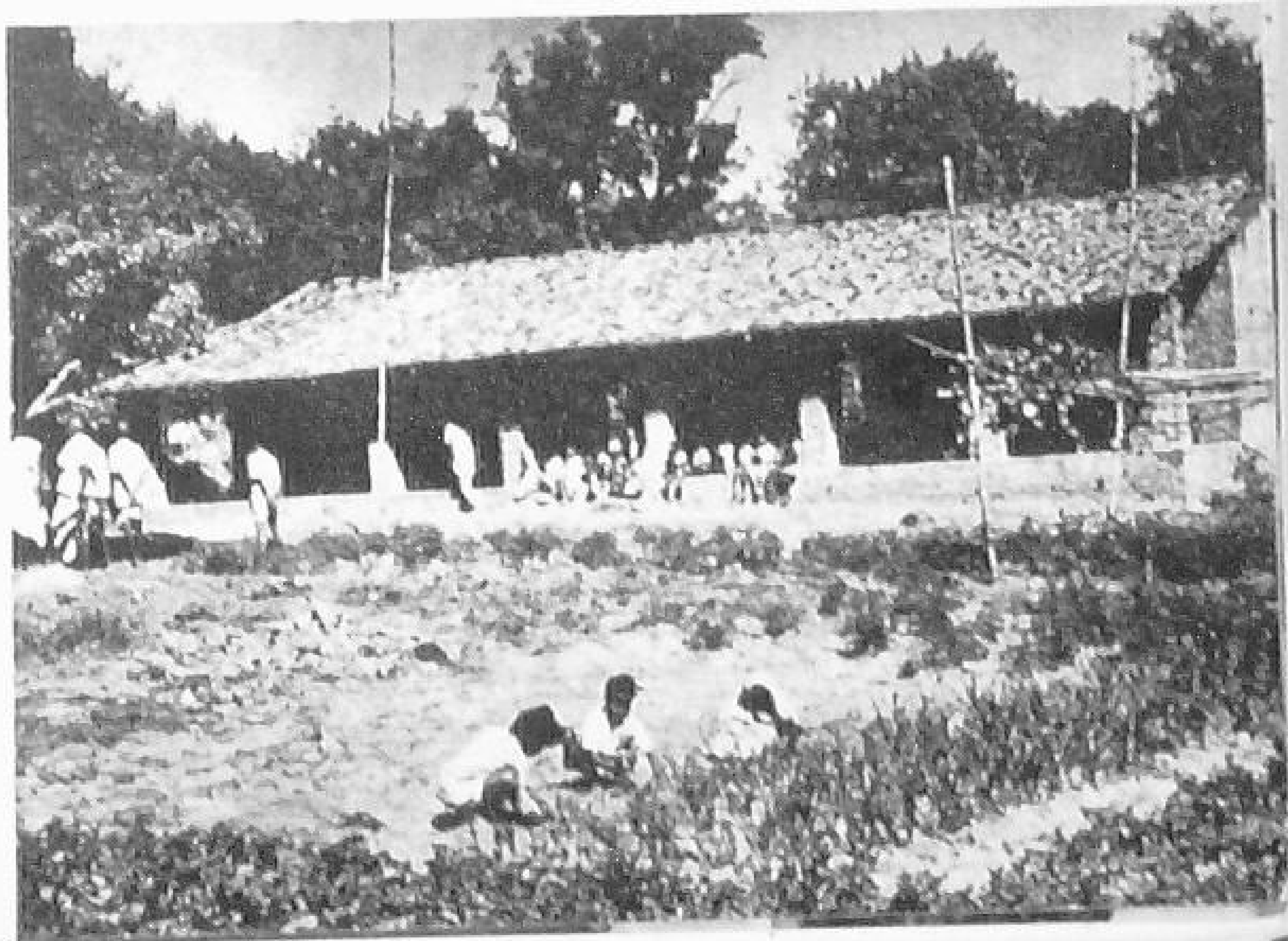


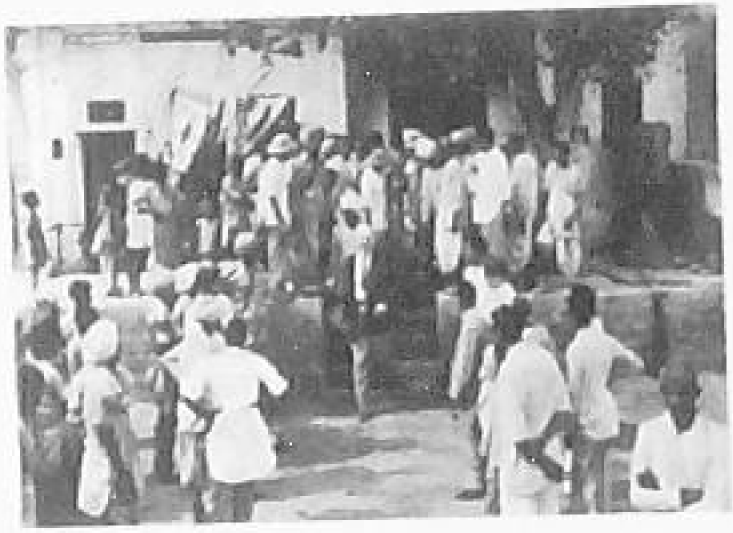
Something for everybody

Men and women at work

A bund constructed by the people

A basic school built by the villagers





WORLD INTEREST

WORLD INTEREST

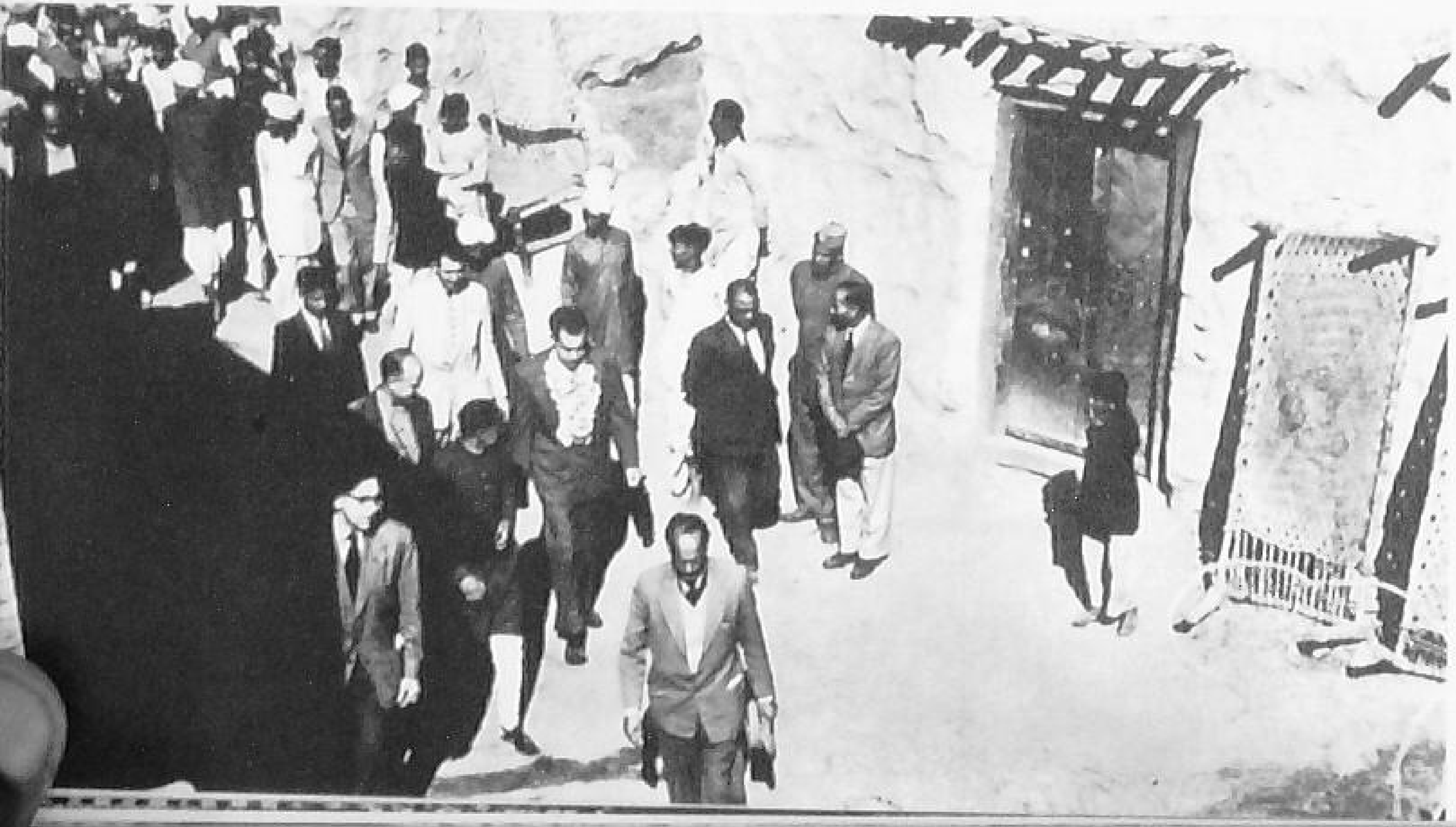
The Community Development Programme which is now operating for nearly three years has attracted world-wide attention. The integrated approach in socio-economic development which the Programme embodies has fascinated experts as well as administrators, the common man and students of political affairs. Both in its magnitude as well as in the intensity of work, the programme is unique, and observers from all over the world have come and seen it in operation.

A United Nations Mission characterised India's Community Projects as the most significant development in the socio-economic improvement of South and South East Asia.

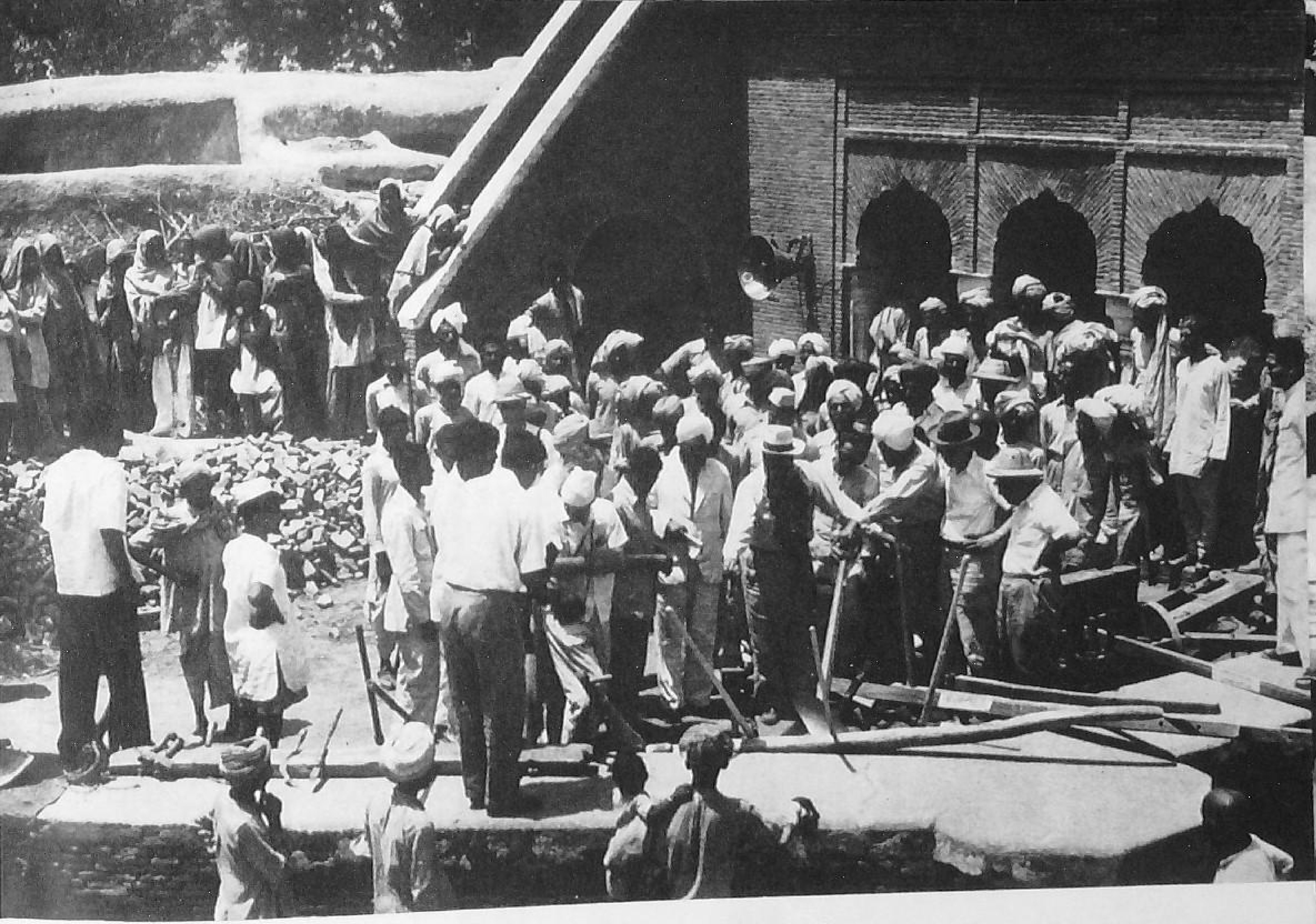
Official delegations from many countries of South and South East Asia including Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Iraq and Iran have come and studied the working of the programme. Many of the members of these delegations have spent long periods in India to study the various facets of the Programme so that they could introduce it in their own countries. India has received and is receiving requests for increasing participation by our personnel in the formulation and implementation of community develop-

ment programme in Asian countries. Distinguished visitors to India have availed of the opportunity of seeing the Community Project Programme in action. Such distinguished visitors included Marshal Tito, Mr. Richard Nixon, Vice-President of the U.S.A., Mr. Adlai Stevenson, Democratic Party Leader of the U.S.A., Lord Halifax, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Mr. Harold Stassen and others. Other visitors included journalists, professors, economists, scientists and administrators. All such persons have expressed themselves about the significance of the work and of the new upsurge that is evident in the countryside. Mr. Aneurin Bevan, ex-Labour Minister of Great Britain after his visit to a project area summed up the impressions of his visit in these words : "Formerly visitors used to come to India to see the magnificent Taj built by the Mighty Emperor. Now they come to this country to see the useful mud houses built by the people themselves." Soul of new India is astir anew.

Mr. Harold Stassen



Mr. Richard M. Nixon



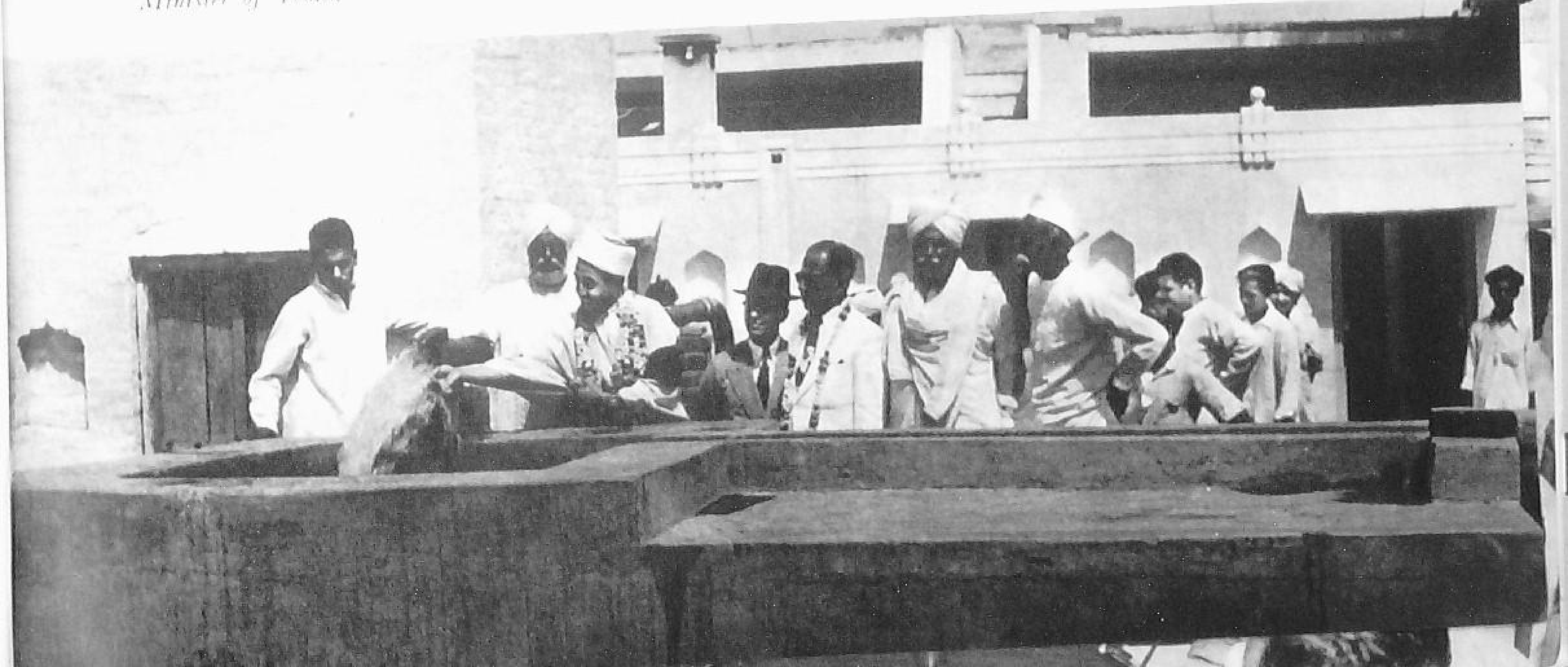
Mr. Adlai E. Stevenson and His Excellency Mr. George V. Allen at Nilokheri

Lord Halifax

Marshal Tito

Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia

H.R.H. Saif El Islam, Prime Minister of Yemen



H.E. Gamel Salem, Dy. Prime Minister of Egypt

H.E.H. Crown Prince of Laos

Delegates to Colombo Plan Conference

South-East Asian Delegation being addressed by the Minister for Community Development

"THE DYNAMIC SPARK"

The Prime Minister in a message to the Development Commissioners' Conference held at Simla this year had said:

> " The Community Projects are the bright, vital and the dynamic sparks all over India from which radiate rays of energy, hope and enthusiasm."

This new light is spreading its effulgence far and wide and the people of India are on the threshold of a new era of peaceful revolution. The community projects show the way to the Welfare State that we are pledged to build. This road is long and arduous. But the people of India, robust in heart and buoyant in optimism, have rendered a good account of themselves during the first three years of the working of the programme. The foundations have been well and truly laid and the superstructure is beginning to emerge.

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301

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